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Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur (left) meets yesterday with the head of Jordan's delegation to the talks, Fayez Tarawneh, and the head of Israel's delegation, Elyakim Rubinstein, to discuss advancing bilateral talks and talks between Israel and the Palestinians. (IDF Spokesman)

Shohat announces 10% capital gains tax in '95

Purchase tax cuts also part of new economic program

JOSE ROSENFELD

STOCK market profits will be taxed at 10 percent from the beginning of next year, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat announced yesterday at a hastily convened news conference.

The stock exchange will be closed today and tomorrow, in the hope that by next week, the market will have digested the decision and not begin a massive selling spree.

This dramatic reversal in government policy — only two months ago, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said there would be no tax on capital gains as long as he was in office — follows July's high Consumer Price Index and this month's 3.7 percent cost-of-living increase, which threatens to further stoke inflation, now running at 14.5% annually.

On the government's credibility following this about-face, Rabin said: "When you're talking about the finance minister or the prime minister, the public should not expect them to tell the whole truth when you're talking about

taxes or a devaluation."

The new tax will be collected by the banks or registered stockbrokers at the source, based on real profits realized on the day of the sale, calculated based on the stock's value on December 31, 1994.

Treasury Director-General Aharon Fogel said: "The 10% tax may seem to be low; however it is not so when there is no possibility to offset stock market losses."

MK Gideon Pat (Likud), head of the Knesset Economics Com-

mittee, said the Likud faction would meet today to discuss the government's proposals, and he will recommend supporting them, with minor adjustments.

The legislation to implement the new tax will have to be approved by the end of the year.

Shohat stressed yesterday that along with the new tax, there would be a string of tax reductions in areas that affect the prices of goods and labor costs, aimed at fighting inflation. The purpose of the stock market tax, which will

not be applied to gains made by provident funds, advanced study funds, pension funds and insurance company stock investments, is to offset the government's revenue loss following these reductions.

Shohat promised that none of the revenues generated by the capital gains tax will go to finance the budget.

Treasury state revenues director Yoram Gabbai estimated that the new stock market tax would bring in some NIS 500 million a year.

Shohat said he was cutting National Insurance Institute employee taxes by 0.47% in an attempt to forestall a big jump in prices as a result of the large cost-of-living increase being paid in this month's salaries.

The Treasury also decided to reduce purchase taxes on a series of products as a means to moderate price increases.

Gabbai said the items chosen for the tax reduction were selected for the maximum effect they will have on reducing prices to

(Continued on Page 2)

Major fiscal, monetary changes

HERE is a list of the major reforms announced yesterday.

- 10% capital gains tax
- Purchase tax cuts totaling NIS 480 million affecting air conditioners, batteries, office equipment, computers and accessories, telephones, car parts, and film
- Reduction in NII employer taxes by 0.47%
- Foreign currency travel allotment of \$7,000
- Unlimited use of credit card for travel services abroad
- No limit for foreign investment by businesses
- Allowance of up to 10% of firms' net worth for securities purchases and foreign deposits
- Foreign companies permitted to issue stock in the TASE

More details, Page 8

Economic pact signed with Jordan

ISRAEL and Jordan initialed an economic agreement yesterday that will allow the kingdom to export \$30 million worth of goods and commodities to Judea and Samaria.

The agreement, reached during negotiations at the Dead Sea, said the exports would have to go through Palestinian merchants and will require permits from the Palestinian Authority.

Jordanian products were banned from the territories after the Six-Day War. Israeli goods were also officially banned from Jordan, but many make their way there through third parties.

Arye Zeif, director-general of

the Customs Authority and a negotiator with the Jordanians, said the agreement paved the way for an end to the Jordanian boycott against Israeli goods. He added that Israeli industrialists will meet with their Jordanian counterparts later this month to close business deals.

"The significance of this agreement is that it determines an interim stage in advance of a permanent trade agreement, which will be signed as part of a peace treaty," Zeif said.

The exports are restricted to goods produced in Jordan and will only be allowed in areas of Judea and Samaria that are not under Palestinian self-rule.

Zeif said the Jordanian goods would be subjected to Israeli import standards and taxes.

Fayez Tarawneh, chief negotiator with Israel, told the Jordanian state-run Petra News Agency the export ceiling could be raised in 1995, pending further discussions with the Israelis.

Tarawneh said that Israel had left up to Jordan and Palestinian merchants to decide on the quantity and kinds of commodities to be exported to territories.

Jordanians officials said Israel restricted the trade volume because it feared the cheaper Jordanian goods might find their way to its market.

Reforms a step in the right direction

COMMENT

NEIL COHEN

YESTERDAY'S sweeping taxation and currency reforms are long overdue. If anything, they do not go far enough, and there is nothing stopping the government from expanding the reforms once the current set have been approved, implemented and digested by the economy.

There is no reason why enterprise and profits from investment in real estate and unquoted securities should be heavily taxed while even the most speculative and economically unproductive stock market dealings should be tax free.

But the government did not discover fiscal justice yesterday, particularly given its previous stand against taxing market gains. Nor was the government's motive the NIS 500 million or so the move will raise. It was probably no coincidence that the reforms were announced a day after the fourth disappointing

Consumer Price Index in a row.

Obviously most of the elements of the package have been under preparation for some time. But the tax on stock market gains, the most dramatic and unexpected piece of the package, seems to be an attempt to convince people that the government is willing to take drastic measures to regain control of the economy.

Ten percent, though, is pretty toothless and is unlikely to have a serious impact on the economy. It may reduce stock market activity somewhat which should have a limited knock-on effect on consumption, without seriously harming companies' ability to raise capital.

What will have more impact on inflation is the cut in employers' taxes, timed to coincide with the next cost-of-living increment. Aside from housing costs, rising wages are the main engine of inflation and provided that employers pass on the savings to the consumer, this should have some benefit.

The foreign currency reform is welcome, albeit inadequate. Israel's economy is mature enough that it should be looking towards a freely convertible currency.

But the stock market taxation proposal looks as though it has been hastily thrown together. That investors cannot offset losses against their gains is unfair. A higher tax rate would have been better and a single, fixed base rate is silly. An investor who buys at 100 in November, sees his investment fall to 80 on December 31 and rise to 90 in January will have a tax liability — on a loss-making position.

Carlos the Jackal claims he was kidnapped

PARIS (AP) — Carlos the Jackal was betrayed, bound and drugged in a kidnapping operation that ended two decades on the lam, his lawyer claimed yesterday, a day after the world's most notorious terrorist was delivered to France.

Attorney Mourad Oussedik said he will file suit if his client agrees. But the greying gun-for-hire was unruffled on his day in court, jesting with the judge who charged him in a 1982 Paris bombing that killed a pregnant woman and injured 63.

Meanwhile, Ali Jideh, spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, on whose behalf Carlos was said to have worked in the 1970s, said on Channel 1 that the arrest of Carlos was "against the Palestinian people."

"The trial of Carlos would be directed against the Palestinian people. What I would like to say to the French government is if they are really serious about stopping terrorism, to ask the Israeli government to deliver those people of the Mossad who have committed horrible crimes on the land of the French government."

Various Palestinian leaders have been assassinated by the Mossad in France itself, he said.

Examining Magistrate Jean-Louis Bruguiere charged Carlos, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, with "complicity in voluntary homicide and injuries and destruction by explosives leading to death and permanent injuries."

Other Carlos stories, Page 4

Heat wave kills thousands of chickens

DAVID RUDGE

TENS of thousands of chickens have suffocated to death in the North as a result of the current heat wave which continued yesterday.

However, the Meteorological Service reported that a let-up was in sight and a slight drop in temperatures was expected today.

The weather bureau said it would still be hotter than usual, especially in hilly central regions, and humidity would remain higher than average along the coast.

Nevertheless, the conditions will continue to ease tomorrow and over the weekend, with slight but steady drops in temperatures and a decrease in overall heat and humidity.

(Continued on Page 2)

Justice Ministry won't extradite Dotan to US

ALON PINKAS and EVELYN GORDON

FORMER air force brigadier-general Rami Dotan, serving a 13-year-prison sentence for receiving kickbacks from US defense contractors, will not be extradited to the US despite recurrent American requests, a Justice Ministry spokeswoman said yesterday.

"We have told them, before they submitted any formal extradition request, that we would not comply because he was an Israeli citizen, when the crimes were carried out," spokeswoman Etti Eshed said. "In addition, Israel contends Dotan was tried for the same offenses the US wants him extradited for."

The US-Israel extradition agreement does not cover many of the charges against Dotan, including money-laundering, conspiracy, mail and wire fraud and making false statements.

The army yesterday said it had no reaction regarding the case. "This is strictly a matter for the two justice ministries to deal with. He was tried, punished and is jailed in a military installation,"

said a source at the Military Judge Advocate-General's office. Dotan was serving as the air force's chief procurement officer in New York when he accepted in excess of \$10 million in bribes and kickbacks from US companies he selected to supply the air force with equipment and parts. He received a 13-year sentence and was demoted to private.

One of the ramifications of the Dotan affair was the Clinton administration's decision to change defense procurement procedures for foreign governments. Rather than purchase directly from companies, Israel as well as other countries will have to channel requests and funds through the Pentagon in a slower and costlier process. Israeli officials say this will hike the prices of arms deals and possibly cut the amount of military equipment Israel can buy.

By law, Dotan cannot be extradited, because he was an Israeli citizen at the time the crimes were carried out. The law stipulates that Israelis can be extradited only if they are immigrants, and then only for crimes committed before they took Israeli citizenship.

Even if Dotan had been extraditable, however, it seems unlikely that Israel would have wanted to do so, for security reasons.

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Baram: Tourism Ministry will not push new Golan tourism projects

TOURISM Minister Uzi Baram yesterday declared that his ministry would not support investment in any new tourist projects on the Golan.

However, he stressed that the ministry would continue to assist existing tourist sites and help ensure that projects already under way would be completed.

Baram, who spoke to reporters during a tour of the North, including the Golan, said he could not ignore the political changes in the region.

"We are dealing with specific points on the Golan the same as anywhere else. But I can't say that the fact that there are negotiations with Syria, or that negotiations are due to get under way with Syria, are not affecting my policies. They do influence my policies," said Baram.

"It does not affect the subject of existing sites or projects which are already under way and which we have to help see through to completion."

DAVID RUDGE

"There is one subject, which I intend to examine thoroughly and objectively, which is the question of developing beaches on the foothills of the Golan which haven't had the same development as other beaches."

"But I can't say that when you are on the eve of negotiations, you don't take the matter into account in terms of investments. I am not going now to develop new projects or elements which have not even started."

Baram stressed that the ministry had not issued any directives to prevent investment in new tourism projects on the Golan, but as a general policy he would not encourage or support such moves.

He said he "deeply appreciated" the presence of the Jewish settlers on the Golan, but warned that sacrifices might have to be made in return for peace with Syria.

"I truly understand their opposition, but the view has to be global. We may have differences of opinion, but we should still be able to talk to one another," he said.

Earlier, during a visit to Tiberias, Baram said he felt sure that a peace agreement would ultimately be reached with Syria, although he could not predict the timing or the conditions.

In the framework of a comprehensive peace in the region, Tiberias would have a central role as a major tourism center, especially in view of its myriad attractions, including health spas, Lake Kinneret, its historic past and the fact it was a major pilgrimage site.

He revealed that the ministry had drawn up plans to develop infrastructure in Tiberias and around the lake and assist in the construction of an additional 6,000 hotel rooms by the year 2,000.

Baram added that the ministry also intended to begin a "Peace Tourism" campaign next year aimed at attracting more foreign tourists.



Hamas activists hold a protest outside the Deir el-Balah prison yesterday demanding the release of activists arrested by the Palestinian Police. (Reuters)

Israel-PLO talks break without agreement on taxes

JON IMMANUEL

ISRAELI-PLO talks on transferring authority to Palestinians in the territories ended inconclusively yesterday, with the two sides agreeing to refer the issues to the liaison committee meeting in Alexandria today and to meet again in Cairo next week.

Maj.-Gen. Danny Rothschild, the government coordinator in the territories, and chief Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath told a news conference in the Gaza Strip that they discussed both early empowerment and elections in the territories.

Shaath said Palestinians wanted elections "as a very important expression of democracy." He said he expected talks to reach a conclusion after two more meetings.

Taxation was the crucial issue on the agenda at the civil administration building near the Erez checkpoint. The tax system is one of five spheres of self-government to be handed over to an elected administrative council in Palestinian population centers outside

Gaza and Jericho. Talks on the other issues, health, education, social welfare and tourism, have largely been completed. However, since none of the other four spheres can operate without financing, the talks on taxation are crucial to setting a date for the transfer of authority in the other spheres.

Tax collection responsibilities will be divided among Israelis and Palestinians. Palestinians are expected to put in place mechanisms

for collecting income tax, while Israel will be responsible for recommitting to the Palestinians customs and excises raised at Israeli ports.

The World Bank is willing to give aid on condition that the Palestinians raise a substantial amount of revenue through their own tax mechanism. Prem Garg, the World Bank representative in Israel, said yesterday that donor aid for Palestinian direct expenses "assumes certain amounts will be raised by the the authorities themselves."

FM officials: Early empowerment must wait for funding

DAVID MAKOVSKY

NEGOTIATIONS on transferring civil authority to the Palestinians throughout the territories are not likely to succeed until after an international donors meeting is held next month, Foreign Ministry officials said yesterday.

The assessment dampened any expectations of a breakthrough at a meeting today in Alexandria between Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath.

Among other issues, the two are slated to discuss early empowerment—the transfer of authority to the Palestinians in such areas as health, education and tourism.

"There can be no successful conclusion on early empowerment unless we know the money is available from the donors to fund it," a Foreign Ministry official involved in the negotiations said last night. A meeting of donors from 34 countries has already been scheduled to be held in Paris on September 7-9.

Officials said Peres and Shaath may announce today that they will issue a joint appeal to the donors to ensure that funding is available to make early empowerment work.

Israeli officials believe an estimated \$50 million will be needed to cover the costs Palestinians will incur during the first six months after they assume these new responsibilities, since their tax collection system is not fully functioning. So far, the Palestinians are only collecting municipal taxes.

During today's meeting, Shaath is also expected to call for the inauguration of the safe passage routes between Gaza and Jericho, as called for in the Oslo accord. He is also expected to insist

upon the release of Palestinian prisoners. Earlier this week, however, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that he would not discuss the issue until the Fatah Hawks stop executing suspected collaborators.

Meanwhile, Peres is scheduled to be the first senior Israeli minister to visit Arafat in Gaza. The meeting is planned for Friday, when Arafat, Peres, and visiting Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Guald will celebrate the anniversary of the Oslo accord, which was initiated last August 20th in Norway.

Polls of veterans, immigrants: Majority support Oslo pact

DAVID MAKOVSKY

LOCAL Jewish support for the peace accord with the PLO has risen to near its high-water mark of last September, according to a survey conducted by the Louis Guttman Institute for Applied Social Research earlier this month.

According to the survey, the level of support currently stands at 60%, a six-percent rise over the last two months, and just two points lower than the poll taken when the Declaration of Principles was signed at the White House last year.

A total of 51% — up 10 points from two months ago — now also favor "extending the autonomy to include other territories in the West Bank at a later stage."

According to the survey, increased support for the Oslo accord with the PLO was expressed across the political spectrum. No less than 40% of Likud members polled favored the Gaza-Jericho accord.

At the same time, only 44% of Israeli Jews believe Palestinian self-rule is being well managed, and six of 10 oppose allowing Gazans to work inside Israel proper, the survey revealed.

Approximately 70 percent of those surveyed want either elections or a referendum "before a final decision is reached on the peace borders."

The telephone survey of 506 Jewish adults representing a cross-section of the population was taken on August 7-8.

Meanwhile, a face-to-face survey earlier this month of 785 immigrants who came from the former Soviet Union during the last four years also indicates support for the Israel-PLO accord, albeit at a lower rate than among the general population.

The poll, conducted by the Smith Research Group and commissioned by Princeton University student Daniella Lipper, shows that 52% of these immigrants support the Oslo accord.

However, support for the Israel-PLO accord has not been translated into broad support for the Rabin government. According to the survey, 36.6% of the immigrants expressed support for the Likud bloc, while support for the Labor bloc stood at 31.3%. A full 22.5% said they did not know who to support; 4.5% were open to another party, such as a Russian party, and only 1.1% support a religious party.

Over 23% of respondents said their next vote for the Knesset would be a protest one. Only 38.5% of the immigrants said their vote would be based on state of the Arab-Israeli conflict. An almost identical number of immigrants said their vote would be most heavily influenced by the economy or absorption policies.

Virtually a third of the immigrants said their hardest problem in the country was finding a job that fit their qualifications. Almost half, 47.8% said they were dissatisfied with their current job. Three out of 10 respondents said their biggest problem was housing. At the same time, 34.6% of those surveyed said they already owned an apartment here.

Despite all the problems, the immigrants prefer to remain in Israel by a larger margin than some might expect.

Arab woman wounded in bus attack

SHAWAR Wafa, 25, of Hebron was seriously wounded last night when the bus she was riding on was fired upon by terrorists near Bethlehem. The Arab-run bus, which left from eastern Jerusalem and bore Israeli license plates, may have been mistaken for an Israeli bus, but carried only Arab passengers. Wafa was rushed to Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem section. Large army forces launched a search for the attackers. (Him)

SHOHAT

(Continued from Page 1)

consumers. He noted that almost no construction inputs were included, since all the tax savings would end up in the contractors' pockets without reaching the consumer.

Purchase taxes on air conditioners, computers, batteries, telephones and car parts are among the taxes to be reduced.

According to Customs and Value Added Tax Director-General Arye Zeif, consumers can expect to see half of the cut reflected in the prices they will pay for these items.

Shohat also announced that the government intended to proceed next month with its reduction of duties on exports from countries that have no trade agreement with Israel. This means that on September 1, duties on most imported items will drop between 5% and 10%.

On October 1, NII employer taxes will drop from 2.4% to 1.93%. The reduction will amount to NIS 75m. until the end of the year, or NIS 300m. annually.

Also, as part of the package announced yesterday by Shohat and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frankel, further foreign currency reforms were presented aimed at eventually making the shekel fully convertible into other currencies.

These include raising the foreign currency allowances for Israelis traveling abroad from \$3,000 to \$7,000 and unlimited use of credit cards for

tourist services abroad.

Local companies will be able to make unlimited foreign investments. They will be able to invest up to 10% of their net worth, or 5% of their sales, in foreign securities or deposit such sums in foreign banks.

Provident funds, insurance company funds and pension funds will be able to invest up to two percent of their assets abroad. These investments will face a 35% tax.

Savers are expected to receive higher returns on their bank deposits as a result of various monetary reforms the Bank of Israel and the Treasury also announced yesterday.

The changes will also increase the means the central bank will have to control the money supply, which has an impact on inflation.

In a further move to reduce inflationary pressures, the Bank of Israel agreed to give the Treasury more flexibility in balancing its books at the end of the year, to avoid overborrowing at that time to ensure that it will meet all its obligations. By borrowing more than it needs, the Treasury helps push interest rates up and spends more than necessary on its financing requirements.

Savers will benefit from the reduction of liquidity requirements on savings accounts, which will free up more money for the banks to lend and increase the demand for deposits, which the banks will attract by promising higher yields on deposits.

CHICKENS

(Continued from Page 1) The Israel Electric Corporation has reported record rates of power consumption over the past few days.

Yesterday, 4,780 megawatts of power were consumed, breaking the previous day's record of 4,600 MW, which surpassed the 4,550 MW registered last August.

Farmers in the North said the heat wave had wreaked havoc in the egg-laying and poultry branches.

Haim Hillel, deputy chairman of the Merom Hagalil regional council, said they had received depressing reports from seven moshavim in the area indicating more than 30,000 chickens had died from the heat in the past few days.

There were similar reports from farmers in other parts of the North where even the use of water sprinklers to cool chicken sheds failed to prevent chickens from suffocating.

"This is the second blow we have suffered after the dry and warm winter which destroyed the fruit crop, especially apples," said Hillel.

"We only have two branches of farming which form the main liveli-

hoods for residents of the region — orchards and poultry. At one stage farmers could earn an honorable living from these branches, but not any longer. I know some farmers don't have money to pay their suppliers, or even their water bills," he said.

The Agriculture Ministry spokesman said it was highly unlikely that poultry or egg-breeders would receive any compensation for the loss of livestock resulting from the heat.

"Sharav conditions are not something abnormal. They happen every year and are considered part of the professional risk that farmers take," said the spokesman.

Nevertheless, there was brighter news regarding the possibility of compensation for the damage caused to orchard crops from the winter drought.

So far the Agriculture Ministry has received over 4,000 claims for compensation for the winter damage. According to ministry officials the total amount of compensation likely to be paid out to farmers would reach around NIS 70 million if the government approves recommendations.

Islamic Jihad: Palestinian Authority must release all our prisoners or face more Gaza attacks

JON IMMANUEL

ISLAMIC Jihad yesterday responded to the Palestinian Authority's search for Islamic gunmen by warning it might intensify attacks in Gaza.

All but four of the two dozen Islamic activists arrested Monday by Palestinian Police after the two attacks on Israelis near the Kissufim junction Sunday have been released, but the police say they are continuing their search for the attackers.

Islamic Jihad made the threat in a leaflet calling on the Palestinian Authority to ensure the release of all Hamas and Islamic Jihad prisoners soon "or we will

be obliged to escalate our military jihad in the Gaza Strip beyond anything yet seen."

The leaflet coincided with the beginning of a hunger strike called by security prisoners yesterday. According to the Palestinian Mandel Institute, 5,267 remain in prison for security offenses.

At a sit-in outside Deir el-Balah and Rafiah police stations on Monday night, Islamic and left-wing opponents of the peace agreements demanded an end to the arrests, saying "arresting col-

laborators is more important than arresting honorable men." Last night three Hamas notables were scheduled to meet with Palestinian security chief Amin Hindi.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday he opposed linking progress in peace talks with Palestinians to the implementation of a commitment by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat to convene the Palestinian National Council. The PNC is obliged to meet and strike out articles of the Palestinian charter calling for Israel's elimination.

PLO official blames Israel for refusing to extend TIPH mandate

SUE FISHKOFF
NEW YORK

THE PLO is blaming Israel for blocking its request to prolong the three-month mandate for the Temporary International Force in Hebron (TIPH), a charge hotly denied by Israel's UN Mission.

A letter from the PLO's UN representative to UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said that "despite the PLO's repeated requests to Israel to extend the TIPH mandate, Israel refused to permit the international force to continue its activity until its stated goal is accomplished."

The letter said that the international force in Hebron is alleviating the suffering of local residents, and

its mission is not yet completed.

The PLO also appealed to the president of the Security Council, who established TIPH on March 31, and asked that the council meet to consider Israel's refusal.

UN Ambassador Gad Ya'acobi responded to the PLO charge in a separate letter to Boutros-Ghali, saying that the PLO had never turned to Israel with a formal request to extend TIPH's mandate.

The force's term was set at three months, by mutual agreement be-

tween Israel and the PLO, he wrote. There was never any discussion between the parties about extending that mandate, because the PLO never formally requested such a meeting.

Israel's UN mission expressed "surprise" that the PLO chose to bring its request to the UN instead of to Israel. The mission noted, moreover, that the three nations that served with TIPH had sent their soldiers home, concluding that the force's presence in Hebron had been of little value.

Ya'acobi's letter concluded that the government saw no need to extend TIPH's presence in Hebron.

Three Lebanese civilians killed, 3 others wounded in separate Hizbullah attacks

DAVID RUDGE

THREE Lebanese civilians were killed and two other people — including a member of the South Lebanese Army's security apparatus — were wounded in a Hizbullah attack yesterday during fighting inside and north of the security zone.

The attacks, including long range shooting at SLA outposts in the zone and the outskirts of the Jezzine enclave farther to the north, sparked heavy exchanges of fire.

The fatal strike occurred around 8:30 a.m. at the Zummriya crossing point on the northern border of the security zone, in the eastern sector.

A massive road-side bomb was detonated alongside a vehicle and Hizbullah gunmen simultaneously opened fire with anti-tank weapons and missiles.

Hizbullah claimed in a statement that the attack was aimed at the commander of the crossing point and SLA soldiers there.

In fact, the casualties were mainly Druze civilians from Hatzbiyeh in the zone who had been working at

the site, which is used primarily by civilians wishing to enter and leave the zone.

Three people were killed and two others wounded — one of them the SLA official — in that attack. One of those wounded was said to have been only lightly hurt while the other suffered moderate injuries and was reported to have been flown to a hospital in Israel for treatment.

SLA gunmen returned fire at the positions of the attackers in the wake of the incident.

A few hours later, another road-side bomb was detonated alongside a car traveling between Hunch village, inside the zone, towards the Jezzine enclave.

The driver, a Lebanese civilian from A'abel a-Saki village, escaped unhurt in that incident.

Around the same time, gunmen fired several mortar rounds towards an outpost in the Jezzine area manned by troops loyal to SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad. There were no casualties among the soldiers who returned fire.

Gaza man arrested for slaying cabbie in 1990

SECURITY forces yesterday arrested Ibrahim Abu Ali, 22, of Gaza, who has confessed to the murder of Petah Tikva taxi driver Ron Levy nearly four years ago.

In December 1990, Levy's taxi was found abandoned in Tel Aviv. Levy's bullet-ridden body was discovered a month later in an orange grove near Beit Oved.

Abu Ali retracted the murder yesterday and will be remanded this morning.

Journalist sentenced

JOURNALIST Michal Kedem, 28, yesterday was sentenced to three months' public service, plus six months suspended, by the Beersheba District Court for using a forged traffic ticket and letter in allegations against former MK Michael Kleiner, his son, and a policeman.

She also must pay NIS 2,000 to two persons whose names she published despite a court ban. Kedem, who works for Channel Two's Kolbodek, committed the offenses while working for the defunct Hadashot and the Beersheba weekly Sheva.

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SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The weekly meeting of the English speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place at 1:00 p.m. today, at the YMCA, King David St. P/P Dr. Shimon Samuels will speak on *Antisemitism, Terrorism and Fundamentalism*.

I offer my deepest sympathy to Stella, Fran, David and their families on the passing of

HARRY HERSH

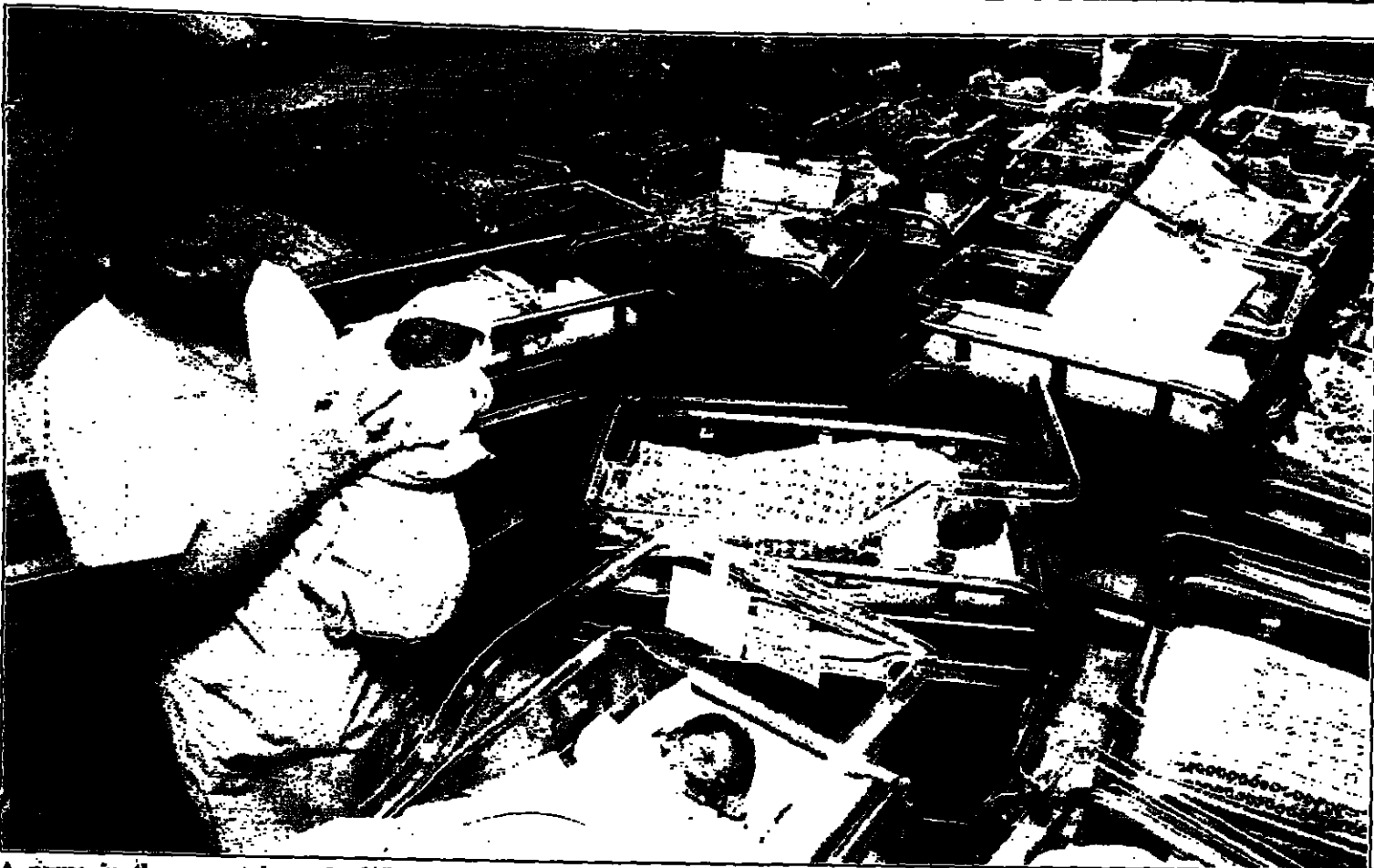
Wonderful husband, father and grandfather

Marian Callier

The Directors & Staff of The British Olim Society extend sincere condolences to their colleague

Frances Golan & Family
on the death of her dear father

Harry Hersh



A nurse in the neonatal ward of Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital poses yesterday with several of the 48 babies born in the hospital during the previous 48 hours. (Brian Hendler)

Capital okays building on newly-annexed land

THE first plan for land recently annexed to Jerusalem, including the construction of over 1,000 new apartment units and several new hotels, was approved this week by the Jerusalem Municipality.

City councilors rejected the objections of area residents and environmentalists who fiercely opposed the plan, which involves the rezoning of some 275 dunams, largely farm land used by Kibbutz Ramat Rachel in southeastern Jerusalem.

The 275-dunam tract was divided into plots for private housing development, public housing, hotels, public institutions, tourism, and roads.

Buildings of up to six floors will be permitted in the area, according to the plan, which still must go before the Regional Planning Committee for final approval.

The land is part of the nearly 15,000 dunams annexed to Jerusalem last year, in an effort by the government to provide room for development in the city.

On Monday, councilors on the planning and building committee overwhelmingly approved the rezoning of the land.

Councilor Eli Cohen (Tzomet) said the arguments by the Armona and Talpuz neighborhood committee, and the Society for the Protection of Nature were strong.

However, "We had to take into account the lack of housing in the city, and the great need to build new homes" and approve the plan, he added.

Neighborhood representatives said the city has opened the way for construction of a densely populated new neighborhood and hotel center that will be a round-the-clock nuisance to residents.

The representatives estimated that about 1,300 new apartments and 30,000 sq. m. of hotel space will be built in the newly zoned area.

"We do not oppose any building, but the plan as it has been presented," the representatives said in a statement presented to the committee before the vote.

The committee accepted the recommendations of the city's Building and Planning Department and rejected the arguments against the plan.

Second suspect in huge tax fraud out on NIS 750,000 bond

RAINE MARCUS

A BUSINESSMAN suspected of operating a massive apartment-sale scam was released on NIS 750,000 bail by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Dan Dornman, 63, of Givatayim, who owns restaurants, business management companies, gas stations, hotels and real estate agencies was barred from leaving the country and from contacting others involved in the case.

One of the other suspects, lawyer Binyamin Shapiro, was freed on NIS 750,000 bail Monday.

Tax investigator Yosef Spiro said that Dornman is suspected of evading land improvement tax amounting to millions of dollars.

According to Spiro, Dornman and Spiro bought a plot of land for building apartments in Herzliya, and reported that six relatives had bought apartments. In fact, "the six, some of whom live abroad, served as fronts, to enable the two to make false declarations to authorities," said Spiro.

They are suspected of falsely presenting the transaction to authorities as a private deal between individuals. The two actually operated as a company, and as such were required by law to pay land improvement tax, said Spiro.

Tax officials said they have documents, information and statements proving that Dornman was involved in fraudulent deals. Further arrests are imminent, they added.

Bnei Brak contractor suspected of tax fraud released on bail

RAINE MARCUS

BNEI BRAK building contractor Yitzhak Fisher, 50, suspected of defrauding tax authorities out of hundreds of thousands of shekels, was released on NIS 150,000 bail by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Tax investigator Sassi Cohen alleged that Fisher, who specializes in "build your own home" construction projects for the Bnei Brak community, developed a sophisticated technique to reap large profits by not paying taxes.

"To avoid doing so, Fisher and others would present themselves as entrepreneurs but in fact they acted as contractors, according to the indictment. They purchased plots of land and supervised all stages of construction, including negotiations with architects, subcontractors and suppliers, and guaranteed the quality of building to buyers and determined apartment prices. Some suppliers were paid cash sums "under the table."

Fisher is suspected of registering false ledgers and accounts in which he listed that, as an entrepreneur, he only received a commission. In fact, he and others enjoyed all profits from the apartments, said Cohen.

He also allegedly helped apartment buyers avoid paying purchase tax by declaring that dwellings were built independently. Purchasers also paid Fisher cash sums, partly in foreign currency, which he failed to declare as required by law. He issued only handwritten receipts which he did not register in the firm's accounts, according to the indictment.

Under questioning, Fisher admitted he used the same method to operate six other scams in different projects. So far, authorities have only investigated offenses regarding one site in Bnei Brak. He bought the land from non-profit association Or Ha'aim for \$700,000 and built 18 apartments there.

State appealing against bail for suspected wiretappers

EVELYN GORDON

THE state will appeal to the Supreme Court against the release on bail of suspected wiretappers Hani Mazaki and Ya'akov Eshel, after Supreme Court Justice Dalia Dorner yesterday gave them permission to do so. The appeal is to be heard tomorrow.

Both the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court and the Tel Aviv District Court have already ruled that Mazaki and Eshel do not constitute enough of a danger to the public to justify a remand until the end of proceedings. While every court decision includes one automatic right of appeal, a second appeal requires the permission of the appellate court. Such permission is usually only granted when an interesting legal question is involved.

In this case, government attorney Nava Ben-Or argued that, even though wiretapping is not considered a dangerous crime, it is a grave invasion of privacy, so the fact that both Mazaki and Eshel are chronic offenders should justify a remand.

"What should be the rule for a man who keeps committing the same crimes over and over?" she asked. "How should the justice system react to this phenomenon?"

Both Eshel and Mazaki, she charged, had committed additional wiretapping offenses even as

they were being tried for an earlier offense - the bugging of Yediot Aharonot journalist Mordechai Gilat in an attempt to discover his sources for a series of articles on former interior minister Aryeh Deri. Both were convicted in that case and are under suspended sentences.

Promises by both men to mend their ways were also quickly violated, Ben-Or said.

Attorneys Zvi Lidsky and Daniel Maroz, representing Mazaki and Eshel, argued that what the state is really asking is whether the terms set by the Tel Aviv District Court were sufficient, which is not a suitable subject for a Supreme Court hearing.

District Court Judge Natan Amit had released the two suspects on condition that they give up their profession entirely, and that the lawyers present proof of this, including proof that their offices have been shut down, to the court within 30 days.

However, Dorner accepted the state's argument that the question of how to treat repeat offenders is worthy of a hearing before the Supreme Court.

Mazaki and Eshel are being charged with several counts of wiretapping and conspiracy, relating to investigations ordered by jealous spouses, businessmen, and others.

Doctors warn of food poisoning during summer heat

JUDY SIEGEL

SHWARMA, salads or dairy products eaten outdoors during hot summer days may be dangerous to your health, warn doctors who have noted an increase in recent weeks in the number of food-poisoning cases.

Dr. Zvi Rotenberg, head of the emergency medicine department at Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva, yesterday reported a "significant increase" in such patients arriving at the emergency room, compared with last summer.

Rotenberg said the patients came complaining of a variety of symptoms, including stomach pains, nausea, fever, diarrhea and vomiting. In some, the symptoms were so severe that they mimicked those of "acute abdomen" that require surgical intervention. However, tests showed that the cause of their discomfort was food poisoning, all of them having eaten food outdoors that had not been properly refrigerated.

Toxins reproduce rapidly in food exposed to sunlight or other heat, Rotenberg explained. Most of the patients were treated and discharged within a few hours, but some had to be hospitalized for a day or two; all of the incidents could easily have been prevented.

State: School study of peace process is not indoctrination

EVELYN GORDON

MAKING the peace process the central theme of this year's school program is not an attempt to indoctrinate students with the government's political views, the state told the High Court of Justice yesterday.

It was responding to a petition by David and Varda Mintz, residents of Judea, who charged that the way the Education Ministry presented the matter in its booklet "On the Road to Peace" was a clear attempt at indoctrination.

But even if this were not so, the petitioners argued, it is a mistake to try to teach such a controversial issue. Since teachers are too liable to impose their own views even if the Education Ministry does not.

In a document submitted to the court yesterday, the state argued

that the ministry has always tried to teach controversial subjects which are making the news, to prepare students for participation in a democratic state. For instance, many schools deal intensively with the Knesset elections before they take place.

The goal, the document said, is to expose pupils to all sides of an argument and to teach them tolerance for opposing views. To this end, material explaining all the various viewpoints is distributed to the schools. Even the booklet in question, contrary to the petitioners' claim, contains a variety of viewpoints, the state asserted.

Furthermore, each school can choose to devote as much or as

little time to the matter as it chooses, and it can pick the materials it wants to use and the aspects of the subject it wishes to focus on, the state noted.

"The educators are asked to present the spectrum of opinions existing in Israeli society regarding the political arrangements, the legitimate dispute regarding the price of peace and the ways of obtaining it, and the reasons of both sides," the document said.

"It is the educator's job to make it clear, to himself and to his students, that there are no 'right' or 'wrong' opinions... A teacher who chooses to serve as a propagandist instead of as an educator can do this whether or not the year's theme is defined as it is, or even if no theme is set."

Israel protests to Germany over judge's remarks

Jerusalem Post Staff and agencies

THE Foreign Ministry yesterday expressed "shock" over the "emphatic" display by a German judge in his sentencing of Holocaust denier Guenter Deckert.

Judge Wolfgang Mueller's three-judge court in Mannheim provoked outrage in Germany last week by saying Deckert, head of the National Democratic Party, was an intelligent man of character for whom denying the Holocaust was a "matter of the heart."

A state court on Monday relieved Mueller, 55, chief of the sixth chamber of the Baden-Wuerttemberg state court, saying he had "lasting health-related problems."

Deckert, 54, was given a one-year suspended sentence for slander and inciting racial hatred of Jews for having affirmed at a 1991 political rally that the murder of 6 million Jews was a myth.

The state court said it wished to distance itself from the June 22 verdict, which was released last

week, "to the extent that the verdict awakens the impression of approval for right-extremist or anti-Jewish ideologies."

The verdict said Deckert's sentence was being suspended because he was a "strong-charactered, responsible person with clear principles."

It said he was "no antisemite" and that his insulting of the Jews was understandable given their "endless financial, political and moral demands on Germany."

"These statements are a clear encouragement to racists and antisemites in Germany, and other countries, who deny the Holocaust in order to express either their own antisemitic pathology or their frustration at not being allowed to harm Jews, as in the past," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"This phenomenon, particularly in one of Germany's democratic institutions, is disturbing and deserves to be condemned," it added.

Committee to propose recovery plan for Kupat Holim

JUDY SIEGEL

A COMMITTEE of Four was established yesterday to propose a "concrete recovery plan" for Kupat Holim within the next 10 days. The plan will cover the Histadrut health fund's operations through 1996.

The committee will be composed of Health Ministry Director-General Prof. Mordechai Shani, Histadrut treasurer Haim Oron, Kupat Holim director-general Avigdor Kaplan and the Treasury's deputy director of budgets, Yishai Talmon.

The decision to establish the committee was made by Health Minister Ephraim Sneh, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon during a meeting in Shohat's Tel Aviv office yesterday.

The four officials will have to suggest changes in the structure of the health fund, as well as the future ownership of Clalit's hospitals.

MDA blood drive seeks to overcome shortage before holidays

JUDY SIEGEL

MAGEN David Adom's central blood bank is still short about 6,000 units, which are needed to supply hospitals for the upcoming holiday period. A recent blood-collection campaign has raised supplies above the emergency level, but it is still not enough, MDA said yesterday.

The week-long, nationwide campaign brought 5,900 donors to MDA stations at the end of July - some 850 per day - compared to 400 donors on an average day.

The organization has decided to run regional campaigns through September 2, with designated collection points, open from 5 to 9 p.m.

Until the end of this week, blood will be collected at the Tel Hashomer central blood facility and MDA stations in Tel Aviv, Petah Tikva and Ramat Gan. In addition, a mobile collection van will be on hand at the Tel Aviv

Exhibition Grounds during the Man and His World exhibition through August 27.

MDA stations will be open next week in Rishon LeZion, Rehovot, Holon and Bat Yam. From August 28 through September 2, blood will be collected in Jerusalem, Hadera, Netanya, Herzliya and Kfar Sava.

Factories and offices may invite MDA blood collectors to visit them for employee donations by calling 03-5343780.

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Knesset panel, mayor declare war on drugs in Taiba

RAINE MARCUS

THE Knesset War Against Drugs Committee, together with Taiba Mayor Rafik Haj Yihya, are taking steps to crack down against drugs in the Arab town, where an estimated 18 percent of residents use illegal substances.

The decision to form a local board to advise the mayor and local leaders followed a tour of the village last week by committee head MK Rafael Eitan (Tzomet), Deputy Agriculture Minister Walid Sadek, and MKs Naomi Blumenthal, Taleb A-Sanaa, Hashem Mahameed and representatives of the War

Against Drugs Authority. The proposed board will be responsible for educational programs, rehabilitation and locating and identifying dealers and addicts in the village.

Sadek, who lives in Taiba, said he is currently attempting to raise funds to operate a rehabilitation center there.

Tiyul-Hike

Join Livnot U'Lehbanot for a day-long hike to the ancient Judean Hills.

When: Monday, August 22nd 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
What: Hike and meet new people, hike, swim, picnic and learn about the history of the area.

Who: Men and women age 21-30 with little Jewish background who are interested in experiencing Livnot U'Lehbanot. "To Build and To Be Built" for a day.

Where: Pick up in the Old City at 8:00 a.m.
Where: Go to reserve spots by 12:00 p.m.
Sunday, August 21st, call 02-793-4812
How much: NIS 25 includes bus, buses and food.

MARRIAGE-MINDED

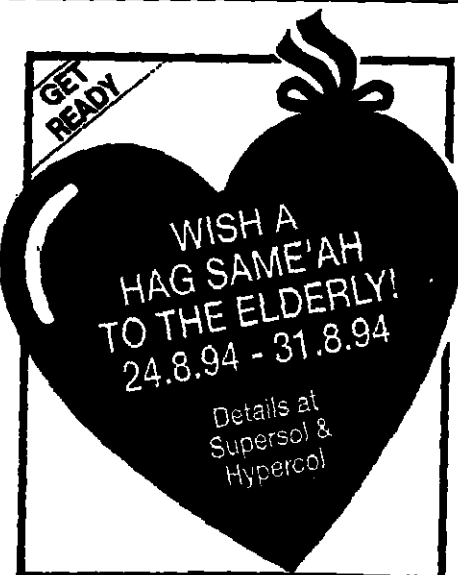
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US: Arrest of Carlos a message to terrorists

ALTHOUGH the arrest of Carlos the Jackal is unlikely to affect international terrorism directly, American counterterrorism officials said Monday that they hope capture of the infamous terrorist will send a message to extremists around the world.

"We hope they understand that the international community does not forget," a senior US official said. "However long it takes, they will be brought to justice."

Since the wave of anti-US terrorist attacks in the 1980s, both Republican and Democratic administrations have more actively promoted law-and-order responses to terrorism, including new laws giving American agencies power to go beyond the nation's borders.

But few foreign extremists actually have been caught or extradited for trial in the United States or other Western countries.

Sudan's decision to turn Carlos over to France could be a boost to Western efforts to squeeze countries that harbor terrorist groups.

It is unlikely, however, to remove a major player from the terrorist scene.

"This guy's been out of business since the early 1980s. He's a terrorist emeritus," a counterterror-

ROBIN WRIGHT, KIM MURPHY
WASHINGTON

ism expert said. "Despite his notoriety, he was probably credited with three times the number of operations he ever really undertook. There are contemporary terrorists who are of much more concern to us."

Indeed, Israel denied that Carlos played a role in several of the most notorious acts with which he is associated. They also refused to comment on speculation that Israel might ask France to extradite Carlos for trial in Israel.

Shlomo Gazit, former head of Israeli military intelligence, said Monday that Carlos was not involved in either the 1972 Munich, Germany, massacre of 11 Israeli athletes or the 1976 hijacking of an Air France plane to Entebbe, Uganda.

American and Egyptian officials speculated Monday that Sudan, which has been on the US State Department's terrorism list since August 1993, decided to hand Carlos over to France because the terrorist is now expendable and because of potential good publicity.

Sudan has been an international outcast since shortly after the 1989 coup that brought to power the hard-line Islamic government of Omar Bashir, primarily because of allegations that it supported international terrorism.

Sudan, cut off almost entirely from international aid and going bankrupt in the process, has been eager to make amends with the West and get the money flowing again.

As a figure of the past, Carlos does not have strong ties with active movements, eliminating the danger of retaliation.

Counterterrorism officials said it is unclear whether Syria, which had played host to Carlos since he was expelled from Hungary in the late 1980s, had decided to kick him out. He had been in Sudan for about six months, US officials said.

Because Syria has also been anxious to get off the terrorist list, US officials think they believe Damascus would have wanted credit for expelling Carlos.

But in the context of revived US-led peace efforts, the sources speculated, Syria may have made life difficult for Carlos to force him to leave. *Los Angeles Times*

'Germany turning into hub of international nuclear mafia'

BREMEN, Germany (Reuters) - German authorities said yesterday that they had arrested a 34-year-old German for possessing plutonium - the fourth reported seizure of weapons-grade nuclear contraband in as many months.

Prosecutors in the northern city of Bremen said the man was held late last Friday while trying to hand over a minuscule 0.05 milligram sample of plutonium-239, which can be used to make nuclear bombs.

The revelation came shortly after an undercover police agent said former East German army and intelligence officials were using their good contacts with the former Soviet Union to help make Germany the hub of an international "nuclear mafia."

Bavarian police revealed last weekend that they had arrested couriers who arrived on a flight from Moscow in possession of over 300 grams (10.6 ounces) of plutonium-239, a substance so toxic that a few millionths of a gram can kill.

Besides three confirmed finds of plutonium this year, there has been one case of smuggled weapons-grade uranium.

The man arrested in Bremen had been offering undercover agents posing as buyers between



A German police officer shows a box containing 0.05 milligrams of plutonium in Bremen yesterday. (AP)

34 and 50 capsules, each weighing two grams (0.07 ounces) and each containing plutonium-239. He was also offering 108 kg (237.6 pounds) of uranium-238, which is not suited for nuclear weapons.

Moscow and Bonn are at odds over the origins of the nuclear contraband, with German officials insisting it could be traced to nuclear facilities in Russia or the former Soviet Union.

"We are assuming that the plutonium came out of the former Soviet Union," said Bremen prosecutor Hans Georg von Bock und Polach. He said the sample included a certificate written in Russian which identified the material as coming from the "All-Soviet Isotope Association."

Greenpeace atomic expert Dmitry Tomatsky told Reuters in Moscow it was practically certain that Soviet plutonium-239 had come from one of three plants, all of them in Russia - Mayak near Chelyabinsk, Krasnoyarsk or Tomsk.

Moscow says it can account for all its plutonium.

Vladislav Kurnikov, charge d'affaires of the Russian embassy in Bonn, said the accusations were a "clear case of prejudice."

Kurnikov told German radio there was no proof the plutonium came from Soviet stock. He added that Russian authorities took nuclear smuggling very seriously.

"We have an interest in preventing such material from being illegally distributed," he said.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl is nevertheless sending his security aide Bernd Schmidding to Moscow to urge tighter security.

For the Jackal, life of terrorism began in London

LONDON (Reuters) - Wine, women and weapons training marked the nine years Carlos lived in London, where he revealed in the tail-end of the Swinging Sixties and almost certainly committed his first act of terrorism.

By night, the Jackal acted the young playboy, hunting women in the discotheques and clubs dotting the British capital.

By day, Carlos, the son of a wealthy Venezuelan lawyer, nurtured his links with radical Palestinians and prepared for a lifetime of murder, kidnapping and extortion.

On December 30, 1973, he was ready. His target was Joseph Edward Sieff, a leading figure in the British Jewish community and president of the huge Marks and Spencer retail chain.

In the early evening Sieff's butler opened the door of the millionaire's London mansion to a hooded man with a gun.

Carlos marched into the room where Sieff was changing for dinner and, before the elderly man could act, fired at point blank range into his face.

By extraordinary chance, the bullet was deflected by Sieff's teeth and merely wounded him. Carlos fled when his gun jammed as he tried to finish off Sieff.

British police were baffled by the crime but, later in his murky career, Carlos claimed responsibility for the attack.

On Monday, London's Metropolitan Police declined to say whether they would, like German authorities, apply to France to have Carlos extradited. Carlos lived in London from 1966 until 1975, attending schools there with his two brothers.

Less than a month after his attack on Sieff, Carlos may have struck again. On January 25, 1974, a young man threw a home-made bomb into an Israeli bank in the City of London financial dis-

trict. It exploded, injuring a woman.

About this time, Carlos began shuttling between Paris and London. One of his many girlfriends - he is reported to have two in each capital - was a Spanish waitress who was also close friends with a young British scientist, Barry Woodhams.

According to author Colin Smith, who wrote a book on Carlos in the 1970s, Woodhams regarded the man he knew as Sanchez as a complete fantasist - a would-be James Bond who had 007's charm with women but lived in a make-believe world of espionage.

One day in 1975, Woodhams was reading a newspaper report of the murder of two French counterintelligence agents in Paris. A description of the man wanted for the murder, named Carlos Martinez, bore a striking resemblance to Sanchez.

Before leaving for Paris, Sanchez had left a bag in the flat Woodhams shared with his Spaniard friend in a shabby street in the Bayswater district of central London.

Woodhams opened the bag and, to his astonishment, found a collection of guns, grenades, documents and maps.

"Woodhams was a bit of a leftie (left-wing) and instead of contacting the cops he decided he would show it to the *Guardian* newspaper," Smith told Reuters.

Smith said Woodhams took a selection of the bag's contents by underground train to the newspaper which immediately dispatched correspondent Peter Niesewand to view the haul.

As he looked round the flat, Niesewand spotted a copy of Frederick Forsyth's thriller about an assassination attempt on French president Charles de Gaulle - *The Day of the Jackal*.

The legend of Carlos, the Jackal, was born.

Sri Lankan voting ends peacefully

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (Reuters) - Voting in Sri Lanka's general election, which could bring a change of government for the first time in 17 years, ended largely peacefully yesterday despite a bloody campaign period.

But the government, which fears flare-ups after results start coming in, ordered more police and troops onto the streets and announced an island-wide curfew for 33 hours.

"Things have largely been peaceful," said Camillus Fernando, a spokesman for the Inter-

national Observer Group monitoring the poll. "No major incidents have been reported."

Deputy Commissioner of Elections A. de Silva estimated turnout at around 75 percent.

Soon after polls closed at 4 p.m., President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga imposed a state of emergency and a 33-hour curfew starting yesterday evening.

Today and tomorrow have been declared public holidays. The curfew will be lifted for eight hours in the hill town of Kandy today to

enable a religious pageant to be held.

The United National Party has won every national poll since 1977 but is facing a tough contest this time from the opposition People's Alliance (PA), which many political analysts favor to win.

Twenty people, mostly PA supporters, have been killed in one of Sri Lanka's dirtiest and bloodiest election campaigns. Police said they had received scores of complaints of assault, harassment and burnings of houses, shops and offices.

Mandela's real tests are still to come

BRENDAN BOYLE
CAPE TOWN

SOUTH African President Nelson Mandela has won the hearts of a divided nation during his first 100 days in office.

But colleagues and political analysts say the real tests, including the judgment of voters who have pinned their hopes on him, are still to come.

"I don't think he could have done better," said arch-rival Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party and Home Affairs Minister in Mandela's constitutionally enforced coalition cabinet.

"He has performed very well as a father figure and as a head of government... I think he has a firm hand on government policy," said Buthelezi, one of Mandela's fiercest critics before the country's first all-race elections last April.

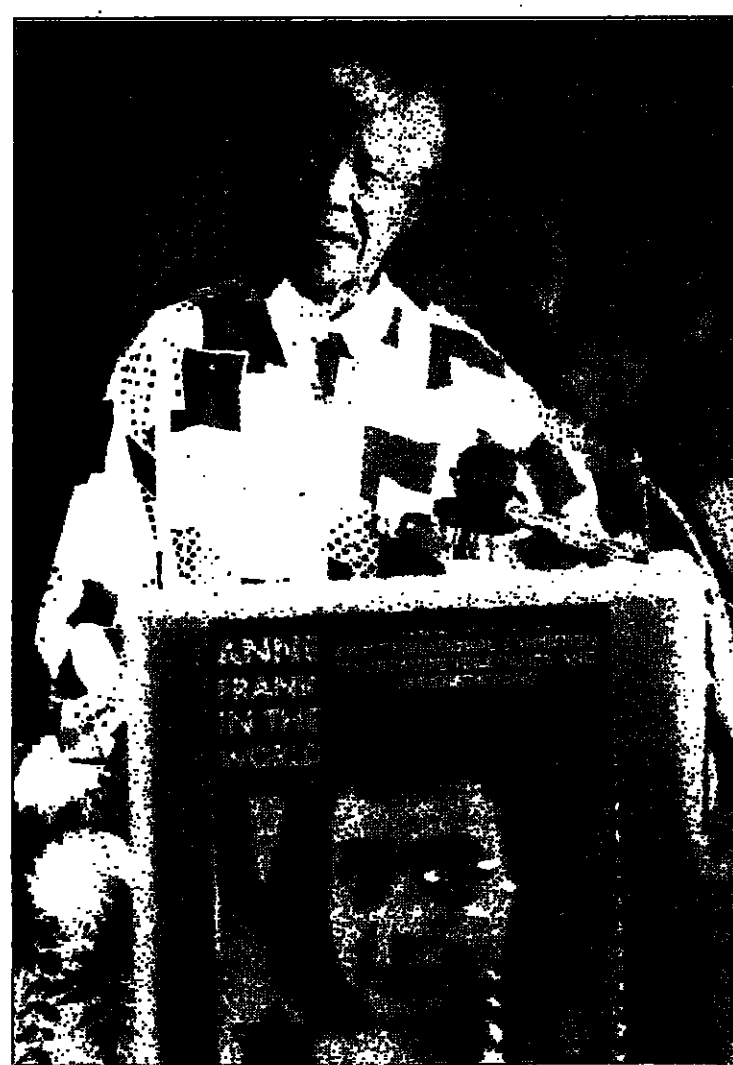
Mandela, who spent over a third of his life in jail for plotting against white rule, marks his 100th day in office tomorrow with a state-of-the-nation address.

He is expected to spell out details of the Reconstruction and Development Program (RDP) crafted by his African National Congress to eliminate the backlogs of 340 years of white rule.

Mandela promised in his first address to the new black-led parliament on May 24 to extend the frontiers of freedom.

"My government's commitment to create a people-centered society of liberty binds us to the pursuit of the goals of freedom from want, freedom from hunger, freedom from deprivation, freedom from ignorance, freedom from suppression and freedom from fear," he said.

After 100 days, however, the only tangible evidence of his promise of a better life is a new deal giving free medical care to pregnant



South African President Nelson Mandela addresses the opening of the Anne Frank exhibition in Johannesburg on Monday. He said the exhibition "explores the past in order to heal, to reconcile and to build the future." (Reuters)

women and to children under six if they are in reach of a hospital.

A school-feeding scheme for the country's poorest children will go into effect on September 1.

For the rest, Mandela's government has named hundreds of task

forces and working groups to research the implementation of the RDP and ways to create jobs out of renewal.

Alec Erwin, an ANC stalwart serving as deputy to old-guard Finance Minister Derek Keys, ac-

knowledgeed that the expectations of the 12 million people who put Mandela in power could become a crisis.

"If not enough is done in this early period of governance in the next six or seven months, then the gap between aspirations and delivery will become a serious one," he said.

Admitting that his main surprise had been to learn that government was harder than he expected, Erwin added:

"The next 100 days is going to be tougher than the last 100 days. But I think in the next 100 days some of the fruit of the preparatory work that has been carried out will start reaching the ground."

Though foreign investment has not started to flow, all the many trade delegations assessing opportunities in South Africa speak highly of the country and its new leader.

In the townships that is not enough.

"It looks like our president is only in charge politically and not economically," said Amos Makhubu, a shanty dweller in Katlehong, outside Johannesburg.

"I supported the ANC because they said things will be better when they are in power. But three months have passed and it does not look like we will get any of the things we were promised."

Former president F.W. de Klerk, now one of two deputy presidents, said in an interview he was pleased by the cooperative spirit in the coalition cabinet in which his National Party shares power with the ANC and Inkatha.

"We can produce visible progress through the cooperation we have built within the government of national unity," he said.

"The major challenge will be to manage the expectations... through fiscal discipline, through rearranging priorities and better management." (Reuters)



Maria Geelmuyden-Bodil: Norwegian Jewish author, attacked yesterday. (AP)

Jewish writer attacked in Italy

ASSISI, Italy (AP) - A Norwegian Jew who lives in this town of peace was slashed on the cheek by attackers in an apparent antisemitic attack, the victim and police said yesterday.

Police identified the woman wounded Monday night as Maria Thaelman Geelmuyden-Bodil. RAI state television said the woman, in her 40s, is a writer who has lived for several years in the Umbrian hilltown, which draws religious pilgrims from all over the world.

"I heard someone [behind me] who grabbed my elbow and then pulled at my hair," the woman told RAI. "They yelled 'Dirty Jew, go home.'"

She said she was slashed twice on the face. A slash mark showed out from under a gauze bandage that covered her cheek. The woman said she was attacked by three young men.

Assisi, the home of Franciscan order founder St. Francis, has hosted numerous conferences dedicated to peace and co-existence.

Police said they were investigating to see if the motive was antisemitism. They said they had no suspects or witnesses.

Last week, a cabinet minister apologized for saying the "New York Jewish lobby" was behind currency speculation that had sent the lira plunging amid political squabbling.

BIBLE LANDS MUSEUM JERUSALEM
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SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERTS
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a Unique Ensemble playing
Vivaldi, Bach, Mozart and others



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25 Granot St., Jerusalem, Tel. 611066

Translator: Jesus was stoned to death

LONDON (AP) - Jesus was not crucified but was stoned to death for blasphemy, according to a controversial former lawmaker who has prepared a new translation of Matthew's Gospel.

The conclusions in the new translation, to be published by Yale University Press in Britain next month, were reported yesterday by *The Independent* newspaper.

The translator is Enoch Powell, 82, a Greek scholar and former member of British Parliament, who is best remembered for a 1968 speech in which he asserted that mass immigration to Britain would lead to "rivers of blood."

The Independent said Powell believes that Matthew is the first gospel to be written, and was revised several times.

"He is explicitly so born; and he is put to death by stoning, convicted by the Jewish establishment of the blasphemy of allowing himself to be called 'the son of God,'" *The Independent* quoted Powell as writing.

WORLD BRIEFS

Sarajevo airlift resumes

SARAJEVO (AP) - UN relief flights to Sarajevo resumed yesterday after a five-day suspension, and a sniper agreement in the Bosnian capital was largely holding.

But other news from the city was not as promising: UN officials reported hundreds of violations of a cease-fire agreement and said a Bosnian Serb tank crossed into the 20-kilometer heavy weapons exclusion zone around Sarajevo.

The tank later left the exclusion zone, but a similar Serb zone violation earlier this month led to a retaliatory NATO air strike.

Balaguer sworn in as Dominican president

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) - Joaquin Balaguer, 87, was sworn in as president yesterday for his seventh term of office and an abbreviated term of two years.

Blind and crippled, Balaguer has been president of the Dominican Republic 20 of the last 28 years. He was sworn in by new Senate leader Amable Arista Castro.

After both the opposition and the international community charged him with fraud in May elections, Balaguer agreed to shorten his term to 1½ years and to revise the constitution so a president can't succeed himself. But Congress on Sunday changed that to two years, sparking an outcry from the opposition.

Actor James Caan in drug rehab

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Movie actor James Caan, who has been the subject of two recent criminal investigations, has voluntarily entered a drug rehabilitation program, his spokesman said Monday.

New legal twist in bomb plot conspiracy case

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A lawyer representing the accused mastermind in the alleged plot to blow up New York buildings said Monday he wants to be taken off the case because of a potential conflict of interest.

According to a transcript of a closed-door meeting Monday morning, defense lawyer Howard Leizer said he felt it would be difficult to represent his client, Siddiq Ibrahim Siddiq Ali, now that the man had decided not to cooperate with the government.

Siddiq Ali, the accused mastermind in the plot, had been cooperating as a key government witness since June. But Friday it was announced he had changed his mind and would no longer testify against the others.

O.J. Simpson found not to have cancer

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Tests on swollen lymph nodes taken from football legend O.J. Simpson's right armpit have shown they are not malignant, his personal physician said in a letter released Monday.

Robert Shapiro, the Hall of Famer's lawyer, released a letter from Dr. Robert Huizenga, who said he removed several lymph nodes from Simpson during Thursday's minor surgical procedure.

The letter did not explain the cause of Simpson's "drenching night sweats" described by the doctor Thursday.

Simpson is due back in court today when he and his defense team, along with the prosecution team led by Deputy District Attorney Marcia Clark, will inform Superior Court Judge Lance Ito on progress made on their voluntary exchange of information and evidence.

Iran ready to challenge sanctions with terrorism

WHILE world capitals considered a comprehensive political and economic siege of Iran, the Supreme Council for National Security in Teheran was examining a dangerous and far-reaching plan formulated by the office for external security. The office is under the direct command of President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Intelligence agencies in several countries have explored the possibility of a military strike, in addition to the siege, to punish the regime for recent bombings.

The Iranian counterplan would answer any siege with a wave of terrorism worldwide, including Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, other Arab states, Europe and the US.

Teheran has consequently increased coordination with appropriate groups and foreign contacts, putting them on alert.

The Paris-based *Al-Watan el-Arabi* has obtained details of the Iranian plan, and has investigated pro-Iranian radicals in the Arab world and the increased activity of the international Islamic army and its cells in Europe.

Western security sources in Cyprus say the Iranian plan was approved by the Supreme Council for National Security and is ready

for activation when needed.

"The need" is defined as vital interests of Iran and the Islamic revolution.

The purpose of the plan is to revive a worldwide radical network in Arab and Muslim countries now facing political, strategic and economic setbacks.

Iran's use of the radicals could produce terrorism with wide-spread consequences in the Arab world and beyond, in response to any international measures against Teheran.

IRANIAN DOVES have been visiting key capitals, vehemently denying Iranian involvement in the bombings in Buenos Aires and London and the destruction of the plane (carrying Jewish businessmen) in Panama. But the belief persists that the international community has decided to punish the "Iranian terrorist animal."

This is clear from the political appendix to the Iranian security plan which insists on the existence of measures agreed by a large number of countries to isolate Iran, to impose a political and economic siege, and to prepare for a possible military strike against it.

Iranian politicians believe the international consensus is that

Iran is undermining the Middle East peace process and will strike against any Arab-Israeli agreements. Such actions could cost Iran a large number of bases and surrogates - especially in Lebanon where Hizbullah is the prime force able to disrupt the peace process.

Western intelligence sources are certain Israel kills, captures or punishes those it identifies as taking part in terrorist activities.

The sources cite threats from Israeli political and military leaders to hunt down everyone responsible for the terrorism in Argentina, Britain, Panama and anywhere else.

They say the Israeli government is in close contact with world powers to convince them of the need for an international plan to confront Iranian terrorism and radicalism. All Western security services are willing to cooperate and exchange information to destroy terrorism once and for all.

ISRAEL'S FIRST option for retaliation will always be in Lebanon, where it will hit hard at Hizbullah. A plan for a partial invasion of Lebanon is on hold until there is an opportunity and a green light from the US.



The Americans are meanwhile putting pressure on Syria for progress in negotiations with Israel. Warren Christopher returned from his last visit to the Middle East believing that some progress has been made on the Syrian track and optimistic about a relaxation of tensions in the Syria-Israel talks.

Many Lebanese hope that the present regional and international atmosphere is incompatible with a far-ranging Israeli military operation. But this does not mean the operation has been canceled, although the Americans and Israelis want to avoid a confrontation with Syria. Christopher is said to have warned Iran to halt actions that could disturb the negotiations.

What worries the Iranians is that a propaganda campaign accusing them of terrorism could lead to a direct Israeli strike

deep into the country. The Iranians claim to have information that Pentagon contingency plans to strike at Iran are ready.

Iran is also worried by deepening relations between Israel and Turkey and a palpable Israeli presence in former Soviet Islamic republics.

IRAN IS convinced there is an Israeli strategy to impose a siege on Teheran and that the economic cooperation between Israel and Muslim republics will inevitably grow into a military one.

This has spurred Iran to avoid a policy of mere "finger biting" and to respond by expanding its activities in support of extremist movements for its defense.

Al-Watan el-Arabi has established that Maj.-Gen. Mahsan Rizai, the minister in charge of the Revolutionary Guards - and known as "the butcher" - has put commando units of the guards, or Basadran, on alert. New Basadran brigades have been recruited across Iran in anticipation of a surprise attack.

Reliable sources say the Supreme Council for National Security met last week and called a secret mobilization of the guards. The Foreign Information Office

has also stepped up contacts with radical groups in Arab countries to coordinate actions.

The sources say Iran's main objective is the "ring states" - Israel's neighbors directly involved in the peace process. In Jordan it supports "Mohammed's army," Jordanian extremists who fought in Afghanistan.

Western intelligence says the Revolution Guards' office has started intensive military training of Jordanian extremists from the Al Kuds camp in Iran's Kashan area. Armed and financially backed, they would return to Jordan to undermine internal security.

THE IRANIS have stepped up meetings with Ahmed Jibril, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (General Command), for action, with Iranian support, in Jordan, in the West Bank and in certain Western states. Palestinian groups would cooperate with Jordanian extremists, with the Islamic Action Organization, the Mohammed Army group and a few Afghans.

In Egypt, Iran's coordinator of activism is an Iranian official named Rahimi. Rahimi recently visited the Pakistan-Afghanistan

border at the head of an Iranian delegation and there met the radical Egyptian leader, Mohammed al-Aslambuli, brother of the officer Khalid al-Aslambuli, who murdered President Sadat.

Aslambuli heads large radical groups in Egypt and outside. Rahimi discussed with him ways to expand military actions in Egypt and how to change tactics after the substantial successes of Egyptian security forces against the fundamentalist terrorist campaign of recent years.

In Europe, pro-Iranian radical groups come under the auspices of the security attaches in Iranian embassies, especially in Bonn, which serves as the operational headquarters for terrorism throughout Western Europe.

The main contacts are established by Kamroddin Harban, an Algerian extremist who has been in Afghanistan and appeared in Copenhagen last week. He met several radical Arab, Turkish and other Islamic activists, and representatives of the Kurdish PKK.

However, Hizbullah in Lebanon remains Iran's most important surrogate as a bargaining chip and for its influence of the peace process.

Al-Watan el-Arabi, August 12

Blacks and Arabs clash in forgotten African lands

MARK FRITZ
NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania

ALI Abra Haman sprawled on the sand under the mid-night sky, his left leg shattered by the gunshots that killed his parents and two sisters as they huddled in a frightened embrace.

Haman, 24, said his family had fled across the Mali desert toward Mauritania. As they camped, four trucks of soldiers drove up, emptied their rifles and drove off.

"Blood was everywhere," Haman said.

Haman is among tens of thousands of white nomads - some bringing their slaves - fleeing a black army in Mali. It is accused of attacking civilians as it crushes a violent white rebellion.

More than 70,000 of these desert nomads have sought sanctuary in white-ruled Mauritania, which has been accused of a vicious form of apartheid and ethnic cleansing against its own black majority.

Two countries, two conflicts: part of a wave of racially charged confrontations sweeping across Africa, from a white uprising in Niger and white expulsions in Senegal to civil war in Sudan.

The battle front in this race war runs along an imaginary line in the sand that separates the Sahara Desert from the stretch of semiarid scrubland, savanna and steppes to the south known as the Sahel.

This sun-scorched swath is the cultural frontier of the continent, the point of impact between Arab and African, Moslem and Christian, and - even today - slave and slave owner.

Though often framed in terms of skin color, culture or language, at their roots these disputes are a battle that pits cattle and camel herders hunting for grazing lands against farmers trying to protect a shrinking strip of arable soil just below the Sahara.

The vast desert is creeping southward, pushing the white Moslem herders and their culture further into contact and conflict with black Africa.

"It's an economic and ecological problem transformed by the political leaders into a racial problem. It's the demographic manipulation of ethnicity," said Sheikh

Ould Weddoud, an anthropologist and philosophy professor at the University of Nouakchott, in Mauritania.

"It's a regional conflict that may spread across the continent."

The conflict is growing in Mali, where the army is responding brutally to a resurgence of attacks by a desert people, the Tuaregs, fierce and ancient wanderers swathed in indigo scarves who drive their camels across the searing sands of six nations.

The Tuaregs are descendants of the Berbers, native Caucasians who ruled northern Africa when centuries were counted in single digits, before black empires and Arabs conquered the territory. From the mingling of the Arabs and the Berbers came the Moors, the nomads who rule Mauritania.

The Tuaregs, financed by Libya, rebelled in Mali and neighboring Niger in 1990, demanding greater autonomy and land and language rights, and killing hundreds of government soldiers.

The fighting eased after a peace accord was signed in May 1992, but exploded again last May.

The number of refugees in Mauritania - most living in three camps run by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees - has jumped from 58,000 to 70,000. More than 100 new refugees arrive daily.

Much of the violence in Mali occurs within a 150 km. radius of Timbuktu, the famous oasis on the medieval camel route that first linked Arabia and black Africa.

Now Timbuktu is the heart of Mali's conflict. Relief workers say they are seeing not only an exodus of Tuaregs, but also of Malian Moors not involved in the fighting - an indication the violence is becoming increasingly racial.

"It's a race war. They are killing anybody who is white," said Moulay Tijani, a Moor who said he fled Timbuktu last month and journeyed 180 km. to a UN camp in Mauritania.

(Associated Press)

Tijani, a Koranic scholar, said he left behind six of his seven black servants, one of his two wives and several children. He has heard from other refugees that his family has been killed.

Kamel Deriche, a UN representative in the Mauritanian capital, said as many as 500,000 more Tuaregs could be waiting out the rainy season in the Saharan dunes of northern Mali, beyond reach of the government army.

Two months ago, Abdallah Hama was an administrator in Mali's Foreign Ministry. Now he is a refugee. He said he was forced to flee because of growing hostility on the streets of the once-stable capital, Bamako.

"It's not our fault we are not black," he said. "Do you know what it was like for blacks in South Africa? It's like that for whites in northern Mali. No schools, development, land. If we speak Arabic, they say 'Why are you speaking Arabic, rebel?'"

Hametou Musa, 36, fled Lere, a village in northwest Mali, because he was afraid of the army. Even though he is black, the fact that he speaks and dresses like the Arabs makes him a target, he said.

Dah Abdel Jellil, the Moorish governor of the Mauritanian region in which the three refugee camps are located, said his country is harboring Tuaregs and Moors "because the [Mali] government will kill them if we don't."

"The Mali government is posing this as an ethnic problem," he said.

Many black Mauritians would disagree, particularly the 60,000 driven from their homes by the army in 1989, or the families of the 500 black soldiers tortured and killed during purges in 1990.

Coura Draillo, a 30-year-old resident of Nouakchott, said her husband, a marine sergeant, was among the victims. Soldiers tied each of his legs to a car, then drove in opposite directions, ripping him in half, she said.

"I never want to see the Moors again," she said. "If I was able, I'd kill all of them."

(Associated Press)



A Tuareg man pours mint tea in a tent at a refugee camp in Fassala, Mauritania. The Tuaregs have been fighting a civil war with the Mali government, and thousands of them have reportedly escaped across the border to Mauritania. (AP)

Collision course: The West and Islam

NICHOLAS DOUGHTY
BRUSSELS

THE West and Islam, struggling with centuries of mutual hostility and misunderstanding, seem to be on a new collision course as the millennium approaches.

The tragedy, experts say, is that it need not be so.

Now that the all-embracing struggle between communism and capitalism is over, rich Western nations are worried by the growing influence of Moslem militants in countries like Algeria, Egypt, Iran and Bangladesh.

It is fashionable to talk about the new "crucible of crisis." What if vital oil supplies are cut off? What if one of these countries gets a nuclear bomb? If Algeria turns fundamentalist, will other Moslem countries also fall, bringing a flood of poor immigrants to Europe?

Killings in Algeria and Egypt, allegations that Iran is behind terror campaigns, persecution of writers and dissidents, the failure of Western-style democracy to take root in many Moslem countries - all of these things trouble the West.

Many of the world's predominantly Moslem countries, in areas like northern Africa and the Middle East, are poor. Militancy is fueled by long-standing resentment against Western colonialism, by poverty and anger with inefficient or corrupt regimes.

Moslems are turning in greater numbers to the certainties of the word of God, traditional values of the Koran and the Islamist promise of social justice, since everything else seems to have failed.

"We are heading for trouble because of misunderstandings and misperceptions," said Heino Kopietz, an independent consultant and expert on Islamic culture.

"Islam is not a threat to Western civilization, but the West does not understand Islam," he said.

The two sides seem entrenched in their attitudes, conditioned by past conflicts, cultural differences and the growing gap between the world's rich and poor.

The Middle Ages were filled with wars between Christians and Moslems. More recently, Western colonial powers exploited and colonized the Moslem world.

Experts argue the perception of a new threat to the West is based largely on misunderstandings.

The phrase "Islamic fundamentalism" conjures images of rabid crowds, the export of terrorism, summary executions, a lack of individual and press freedom and the subjugation of women.

But Kopietz and others say Islam is a peace-loving religion based on respect for others, a view taken by the vast majority of the world's 1.2 billion Moslems.

The idea of a monolithic Islamic threat is a myth, experts say, because the Moslem world is deeply divided, and most of its countries are too poor. Even Iran, accused by the West of exporting terrorism, is limited by its means.

Dilip Hiro, author of a recent book on Islamic fundamentalism, wrote this week in a British news-

paper that the West was also guilty of hypocrisy on a massive scale, something which has further angered Moslems.

The US, Britain and France have professed support for democracy and have been outraged by the Iranian *fatwa* seeking the death of British author Salman Rushdie for alleged blasphemy against Islam.

But they have also turned a blind eye to the Algerian government's cancellation of elections after the first round in 1992, in the face of overwhelming evidence that the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) would win.

The West has all but ignored the democratic deficit in rich, oil-producing Gulf Arab states which spend billions of dollars on sophisticated military hardware.

Moslems argue that Western allies would have taken tougher action in Bosnia if the victims of the war had been Christians.

(Reuters)

France buys time in war against Algeria

PAUL TAYLOR
PARIS

A MID signs of differences within France's ruling coalition, experts are asking whether government policy toward Algeria is tenable or intended mainly to prevent trouble before next year's French presidential election.

Paris has declared war publicly on Algerian Moslem fundamentalism, while affirming its economic support for the army-installed Algerian government.

Hardline Interior Minister Charles Pasqua has interned 23 suspected Islamic activists in a disused army barracks and ordered nightly identity checks on thousands of people, mostly immigrants, in Paris.

The Foreign Ministry has sought to soften Pasqua's tough stance, stressing its wish to see the embattled Algerian government open a political dialogue and eventually allow elections.

While President Francois Mitterrand has paid lip service to a return to democracy in Algeria, Paris has in practice backed the military rulers ever since they canceled a general election in January 1992 in which the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) had taken an overwhelming lead.

Diplomats and officials say France's intelligence community has recently told the government that a fundamentalist takeover in Algeria now appears inevitable.

Officials say privately Paris is trying to buy time, preventing the Islamists from importing their battle into France.

The National Liberation Front (FLN).

The Foreign Ministry denied this week that France has any contact with the FIS, officially designated in an Interior Ministry statement as "an organization which advocates terrorism."

(Reuters)

"We don't want Algerian terrorism on the streets in the run-up to the presidential election. Nor do we want an influx of hundreds of thousands of refugees," one official said.

Given France's ultrasensitive position as Algeria's former colonizer and home to four million North African Moslems, the government is walking on eggs.

Meanwhile, contrary to his tough exterior, officials report that Pasqua has sent emissaries to key fundamentalist leaders in exile and is keen for a discreet dialogue.

Locking up some of the leading Algerian fundamentalists in France does not negate that aim, the officials assert.

"Pasqua and his men in the shadows have received the impossible mission of gaining time and avoiding a wave of attacks comparable to 1986 [in France] while exploring other paths," the weekly magazine *L'Express* wrote.

Historian Benjamin Stora, one of France's leading experts on Algeria, drew a parallel with president Charles de Gaulle's two-track approach during the Algerian war of independence.

De Gaulle, Pasqua's political mentor, had presided over a merciless crackdown on Arab nationalists, then called "terrorists," in Algeria and France while negotiating with the jailed leaders of

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The Treasury reforms

THE only casualty of yesterday's Treasury announcement that some stock market profits would be taxed was the government's credibility. Two months ago Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin solemnly announced that as long as he was in office, there would be no such tax. Yesterday he compounded the transgression by explaining that premiers and finance ministers should never be trusted to tell the whole truth about such matters as devaluation and taxation.

But Rabin need not have gone into awkward explanations. The move itself is just, wise and desirable. If anything, he should have apologized for not instituting this tax long ago, and for the measures being less drastic than they should be.

There is a glaring unfairness in taxing wage earners and not stock market speculators, and there is no reason not to follow the example of most of the world's money markets. The step itself, which exempts savings and pension funds, and imposes a flat tax of 10 percent on real profits (after inflation is taken into account) is minor. As such, it should not affect the market at all, and today and tomorrow's cooling-off period, in which the market will be closed, should allow enough time for investors to realize how truly small the tax is. Only a psychological quirk can cause another market collapse.

Nor can the government be taken to task for announcing the tax so far in advance of its implementation on January 1, instead of imposing it as an emergency measure immediately. A small, incremental step warrants precisely this kind of treatment.

More significant are the other announced re-

forms. Abolishing many of the foreign currency controls, allowing Israeli firms to invest abroad, canceling taxes on various imported items and lowering the employers' tax should expose the market to competition, reduce labor costs, lower prices, encourage growth and combat inflation.

But the government may be too optimistic in expecting that the small tax on market profits will make up for the loss of revenue from the reduction of taxes in other areas. It must be hoped that if the revenue it expects does not materialize, it will not yield to temptation and enlarge the deficit instead of cutting government spending.

The economists who praise the measures in principle but criticize them as "too little, too late" may have a point. The main threat to the economy is the high rate of inflation, which is three times higher than the Western norm. The Treasury's measures cannot in themselves effectively eliminate this chasm, and without eliminating it, competing with other countries for capital investments will prove difficult if not impossible. If inflation is to be curbed, more must be done to lower the unconscionable price of housing, which is - as Rabin put it yesterday - the engine pulling the inflation train.

To remedy this, the government must at least release more land for construction and eliminate anachronistic bureaucratic obstacles to building. As President of the Manufacturers' Association Dan Propser said yesterday, the fact that planning committees are not doing any work because of summer vacations does not encourage one to believe that the government is serious about fighting inflation.

The Carlos myth

THE primal need for heroes and villains seems so ingrained in the human psyche that if the legendary terrorist Carlos did not exist, the world would have had to invent him. In fact, Carlos the celebrity, the larger-than-life villain, is indeed mostly an invention.

Not that this son of a wealthy Venezuelan salon-Communist is anything less than a major criminal. A vicious murderer, an exhibitionist and a hedonist in the best tradition of American organized crime families, he found in "liberation" movements an ideological rationalization for his pathological impulses. In this he was no different from many of his colleagues, though he may have been more cunning and ruthless than most.

But attributing almost every spectacular terrorist act in the past two decades to Carlos - a charge he may enjoy but which has little basis in fact - is not only fantasy mingled with the hope that his arrest would close the book on these heinous crimes. It is a way of evading the fact that he was never more than a mercenary.

The real arch-terrorists of our time are not Carlos and his fellow cold-blooded killers but their bosses: the terror-sponsoring states. Carlos could have performed none of his exploits had he really been the mythical lone wolf portrayed in the media. He has always been a hired hand, first of the PLO's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, then of the Communist countries in Eastern Europe, and lately of the Iraqi, Syrian and Libyan regimes.

He was not a furtive underground figure. He carried legitimate, often diplomatic, passports issued by Syria, South Yemen, East Germany, Cuba, and Romania. He was the quintessential international terrorist who spoke many languages, transferred arms from Eastern Europe armies to terrorists in the West, and liaised between governments and terrorist groups of different nationalities, all working for a common anti-democratic, anti-Western goal.

Until recently he was living openly in Damascus - he could be seen at the Meridien Hotel pool and in the city's better restaurants with his wife, German terrorist Magdalena Kaupp (who was released by the French in 1985 before she completed a four-year sentence), and their daughter. The Syrian regime refused all extradition requests.

Without the support, direction, financing and logistic help of governments, Carlos would have been a small-time bank robber. It will be a great shame if this fact is lost amid the media's aggrandizement of his exploits. And while it is nice to know that he is out of circulation - provided the price the French will undoubtedly pay the Sudanese will not bolster the terrorist-sponsoring Khartoum regime and cost more lives - his arrest means only that a particularly dangerous gunman is no longer in the service of totalitarian Middle Eastern regimes. It does not mean that the regimes themselves are less capable of exporting death and destruction, nor that the West is willing to take effective measures against them.



Europe holds the key

NORMAN GREENWALD

THE peace process has revived interest in an "Abrahamic Union" of Israel, the Palestinian Authority and Jordan. Such a union is seen as a confederation on "Benelux" lines that would gradually enmesh the Palestinians in a web of economic and social interdependence with their neighbors.

But a "Benelux-type" confederation is not in the immediate offing. Normal, peaceful relations between Israel and Arab national entities may be possible, but the political, social and economic "inimacy" that a confederation requires would probably harm the peace process, at least in the short term.

Time and patience will be needed for animosities and suspicions to subside. Also, the marked asymmetry between Israel and its neighbors must be lessened. The combined GDP of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the administered territories is about \$24b., while the GDP of Israel is some \$60b. Neither the Palestinians nor the Jordanians will be willing or able to confederate with Israel until the gap is substantially bridged.

However, a confederate relationship through integration into the European Union (EU) is both possible and desirable. The Palestinian entity and Israel are primarily within the EU's sphere of economic "imperial" influence which envelops all of Europe and the Mediterranean Basin. The EU will most surely take the leading role in Palestinian development when "conditions on the ground permit."

Although the US will continue providing financial and political muscle, it is closer Arab-Israeli integration into the EU's orbit that presents the best hope of advancing peaceful coexistence. Such integration would offer Palestinians, and Israelis, wide-ranging economic and political benefits including guidance in infrastructure and development projects, admission to European markets, and access to advanced scientific research and other hi-tech activities.

The EU's wide-ranging economic and social development programs are intended to make Europe industrially competitive with the US and Japan.

Since its inception in 1954, it has extended structural aid to the less developed states within its orbit, in an effort to raise social, economic and educational levels to the European average. In 1992, the EU committed itself to double

structural aid to \$181b. over a six year period for developing EU regions having less than 75% of EU average economic levels.

The EU's largesse is, of course, determined by political and strategic considerations. A week before South Africa's first non-racial elections, the EU granted that country preferential trading terms as an expression of support. Morocco receives extensive EU backing to reinforce the kingdom's efforts to achieve free market reforms, modernization, and religious

Palestinian-Israeli integration into the EU's orbit is the best hope for advancing peace

moderation. A major EU policy concern is the threat of Islamic extremism to the stability and prosperity of Europe.

EU leaders have for decades urged Israel to recognize the legitimacy of Palestinian national rights. Palestinian adaptation to Western values, they have claimed, can promote regional moderation and political stability. The EU and its member states are among the major international donors for Palestinian reconstruction and development. These donors seem willing to undertake a long-term multi-billion dollar commitment to transform the Palestinian society and economy, "conditions on the ground permitting."

TWO OBVIOUS questions are: Do the Palestinians have the will and ability to modify their national aspirations and make the painful concessions required for peaceful coexistence? And can the Palestinians meet the demands of the international donors for "accountability," by creating the necessary administrative, governmental and social institutions that could assure their identification with the Western, democratic camp?

Circumstances can and do compel revolutionary, terrorist leaders to become moderate even against their own inclinations. Like Israel, the Palestinians must rely on their own human resources for national self-fulfillment. Paradoxically, in

time, Israel may prove to be the Palestinians' most supportive neighbor.

Close ties with the West are the Palestinians' only realistic alternative for achieving significant national development and meaningful economic and political autonomy. The donor states have clearly stated that their financial and developmental support will be determined by "progress on the ground."

Closer ties with the EU are also of great importance to Israel. Israel has warm ties with individual EU members, but its relationship with the EU has been, largely, one of unrequited passion.

The minister of industry and trade speaks of a crisis in relations with the EU. Israel is actively seeking more favorable free trade agreements with the EU, and the right to equal participation in advanced R&D projects. Its foreign trade deficit with the EU is growing. In 1993 it was \$5.65b., up from \$4.91b. in 1992.

Israel's comparative prosperity is based mainly on the skills and initiative of its people, especially in areas of advanced technology. The EU's coolness to Israeli ardor is partly founded on fear of competition. Reportedly, this fear underlies current British and French objections to Israeli participation in new EU R&D programs. Such objections based on national economic interests are usual, and can be overcome when other, more vital interests such as access to Middle East petroleum or restraining Islamic extremism are involved.

It seems certain that Palestinian progress toward achieving political, economic and social stability will be rewarded by admission to the EU's orbit. However, it also seems certain that Israel and the Palestinian Authority are viewed by the EU as one package, and the two will come together or not at all into closer relations with the EU.

Only fools or prophets dare predict the outcome of the Arab-Israeli peace process. Mideastern leaders do often behave irrationally and recklessly. But, those who pin their hopes, or fears, on a perceived, ingrained Palestinian political inability to act logically and competently may well be wrong.

The writer has served as senior advisor to the Ministry of Science and to the Portuguese Directorate-General of Science and Technology.

Medical menace

JEFFERSON MORLEY

ARE you fretting about "flesh eating bacteria?" Wondering if the rampaging germs that have devoured about a dozen Brits and the odd Welshman and Israeli since the new year are going to get you next?

Good. The headline writers of the world (I'm one) have done their job, alerting you to a possible medical menace in the most economical and old-fashioned way - with a nice turn of phrase.

I know, I know. People will say that I am succumbing to tabloid hysteria in the oh-so important field of health care. I know that the World Health Organization says there's nothing to be concerned about, that sober-minded doctors have told the public not to panic. And still, I love this story.

First, the disgusting details. The disease of the week is formally known as "necrotizing fasciitis." It sounds like the latest development in Italian politics but it's even more scary. "Necrotizing" means flesh-eating; the "fasci" is the grizzly, connective tissue that holds the human body together. It is a virulent form of the Type A strep infection. You get it and your gristle turns into what one local doctor tastelessly describes as "soup."

History does not record the fine

Three well-chosen words from a journalist turn a bit of bad news into gripping melodrama

journalistic mind that boiled this story down to its essentials. He or she is the sub-editor at a British tabloid who took note of a minor bit of bad news from a dull region of England - that six people in Gloucestershire had died of Type A strep infections - and transformed it into gripping melodrama. All it took was three well-chosen words: one sacred, one profane and one scientific. Whoot, there it is: "flesh-eating bacteria."

The London tabloids have been having a field day ever since. But the characteristic British sensitivity to human suffering, exemplified by the headline "EATEN ALIVE," has not survived the Atlantic crossing. When the US media picked up on the bacteria story, gleeful exploitation of human frailty gave way, alas, to the Americans' peculiar version of civic responsibility.

WHAT GOODY-GOODIES we American print journalists are! The perfect illustration was a recent *Orlando Sentinel* story about 11-year-old Dawn Nelkorn. She got strep throat and wound up losing one leg and part of her other foot to necrotizing fasciitis. Her mother insisted on staying home with her round the clock, lost her job in the health food store (a health food store!) and the Nelkorns lost their house. The *Sentinel* tactfully omitted any mention of their medical bills. End of story. Give us flesh-eating bacteria, and we give you a Hillary Clinton poster child.

The *Sentinel's* treatment of the story displayed the all-too-familiar vices of American journalism - sociological detachment and deference to authority. The central message of the *Sentinel's* story was not about Dawn's struggle nor about the nature of the disease but about public apprehensions. This theme was announced in the subhead of the story: "Doctors say there isn't an epidemic of the flesh-eating infections; serious cases have remained stable since the early '80s." Such soothing words have been a major theme in the American coverage. The common denominator of these comforting assertions is that they issue from large oligopolistic bureaucracies that tend to mistrust sudden change and popular passion.

"The disease is not new," sniffed a spokesman for the World Health Organization, "and if there is any rise, then I believe it is probably inconsequential." On the other hand, those who have an entrepreneurial stake in treating the disease have a vested interest in foreseeing trouble. A specialist in infectious diseases at Rockefeller University in New York, says of the Type A strep infection: "It's come back, or it's learned a new trick."

So who's right? While necrotizing fasciitis is rare, nobody knows if its incidence is constant or increasing. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta says it does not have reliable figures on the incidence of the disease since 1991. And other reports have quoted University of Minnesota scientists as saying that they believe necrotizing fasciitis is on the rise.

So the most responsible thing that undereducated journalists (like me) can do is to write stories saying that we need to learn more about the killer bug.

And preferably before it eats your face.

The writer is an editor of The Washington Post's *Outlook* section.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NO REASON TO OBJECT

Sir, - Why do the haredim object so strongly to archeological excavations of ancient Jewish burials? Don't they understand that, by so doing, they are playing into the hands of those Moslems who consider us Jews as interlopers, unjustly occupying Arab lands? What better title to the Land of Israel is there than the existence of synagogues and tombs dating back hundreds and thousands of years, long before the Moslems overran the country in the seventh century CE?

As for the problem of handling

bones of long-deceased people, why do the haredim ignore that secondary burial was quite common during Second Temple times? The rich used to have elaborate caves, dug in the rock, where they laid out their dead. After a year or two, they collected the bones and either put them into a small sarcophagus, or placed them in a special pit, dug in the floor of the cave.

Can what was right for our ancestors 2,000 years ago be unacceptable to their descendants of today?

MARCELLA SEGRE

Jerusalem.

SWEEP CLEAN

Sir, - The picture in your issue of August 2 which portrayed Suha Arafat and Um Jihad cleaning the streets of Gaza while men stood aside and watched reminded me of an earlier event. Not longer after former MK Sarah Doron was put in charge of women's affairs in the government in 1984, she appeared in the papers sweeping the Tel Aviv streets.

I fear that just as then in Israel, the image of women street-cleaners does not bode well for women, since once again we are relegated to daily household chores, not only within our families, but also at a national level.

We hope that Palestinian women

will stand firm in their demands for representation and full partnership in all levels of decision and policy making. They should learn from the bitter experience of women in Israel and other countries where women participated in movements for freedom and were later kept out of public life.

If we must be involved in cleansing, then let it be in the removal of corruption and outdated stereotypes from politics.

PROF. ALICE SHALVI,

Chairwoman,

Israel Women's Network

Jerusalem.

UNDIGNIFIED ATTACK

Sir, - I was dismayed to read in your issue of August 5 a low-level and undignified attack on the present Rabin government and its supporters by R. Willers of London ("Muddling," Letters).

I used to appreciate her well-founded criticism of the anti-Israel media in the foreign press. Now that she has turned her verbal assaults from London on the pro-government supporters in Israel, she has descended to an unacceptable low journalistic level - "muddling campaign." "Verbal hooliganism," "vitriolic verbal attacks," "his rantings." Such expressions are unbecoming to Willers and to *The Jerusalem Post*.

DAVID SEGAL

Ramat Hasharon.

JOURNALISM AT ITS FINEST

Sir, - Permit me to congratulate you on the editorial "Speed kills" (August 2). If any problem deserves a consensus of public opinion, then this is it. This is journalism at its finest, a mold of opinion and an agonist for public health and safety.

SHLOMO SOKOL

Kibbutz Gadot.

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מגזין החדש

How journalists avoid becoming statistics

CHRISTOPHER BURNS
COLLIOURE, France

EXPLODING grenades shake the air and machine guns chatter. Journalists scramble through a smoky maze of blackened buildings, a sewer and passageways filled with tear gas. "There's gunfire over that wall! Stay low!" one reporter yells to his colleagues.

It is a surreal war zone atop a 19th-century fortress overlooking the Mediterranean port near the Spanish border. It also is pre-tend.

In a three-day program at the French army's National Commando Training Center, journalists learn how to adjust to warfare and avoid becoming statistics.

Last year, 63 journalists were killed around the world, many in combat zones, according to the French organization Reporters Without Borders.

"A press card or white paint on a UN vehicle are no longer enough," said Lt. Col. Jean-Paul Legras, commander of the center.

"We want to show you little things that won't protect you, but will make you less vulnerable," Legras said in greeting the fourth class of the year-old program.

"This has nothing to do with Rambo."

His center normally runs



Instructors at a French commando training center in Collioure stage a battle scene for journalists attending a training course. (AP)

courses of two to four weeks for army officers and French Legionnaires. The brief one for reporters includes avoidance of snipers, mines and booby traps, lethality of weapons, first aid and basic hand-to-hand evasion techniques. The only charge is about \$60 to cover food.

The French Defense Journalists' Association asked the army for the program, similar to one in Australia.

"During the Gulf war, we had trouble working with the military, and Yugoslavia was an emerging war zone," said Stefan Ciezka, the association's treasurer.

Much of the instruction involves common sense, reminding everyone to be alert and resourceful. During sniper instruction, the class set outside a two-story house while the trainer pointed out possible sniper nests.

"The most likely spot is the roof," Lt. Michel Marzoc said. Then a commando sprang out through a skylight, submachine gun blazing with blanks, startling the pupils.

Look out for any opening in a house, from a chimney to a ground-level vent, journalists are told. In a high-rise, the choice spot is an upper floor - but not the top, an obvious target for sniper-hunters.

Wear dull or dark clothing, but if you choose green, "don't complain you were mistaken for a soldier," one instructor said. "And don't carry army rations."

Instructors showed how, through teamwork, two reporters could quickly pull each other through a window or drag a wounded comrade to safety. Using a smoke bomb for cover, the victim clasps his hands around the neck of the rescuer, who crawls on all fours.

When looking for a hideout, push open a door slowly because it

AIDS research from A to Z

HUGO GURDON
YOKOHAMA, Japan

IT didn't quite match the excesses of last year's conference in Berlin. But 10,000 members of the booming AIDS industry were in Yokohama last week.

At one end of the spectrum were serious research scientists; at the other, zealots of Act-Up, the vigilante group whose members once spat Communion wafers on the floor of St. Paul's Cathedral, New York, while stuffing condoms into worshippers' prayer books.

The attendance of each of these delegates at the 10th International Conference on AIDS cost some university, hospital, government, charity or other benefactor \$2,500. That's \$25 million even before you reckon up all the stalls and posters, the videos and television monitors, the glossy pamphlets and shiny lapel badges.

What were they here for? Did they learn anything useful? Who will benefit? Christoph Rudin, a Swiss pediatrician from Basel and a veteran of three previous AIDS conferences, was not reassuring.

"I am on an upper level of knowledge," he said. He did not expect to learn much from his fellow delegates. "For me, coming here was a bit of a test to see how worthwhile my recent book was. Arrogant, perhaps, but he had a point. Many academics use the conference to burnish reputations by rubbing shoulders with sometimes brilliant researchers.

These researchers, who make the conference speeches, do push out the frontiers of knowledge.

But others, an organizer commented, attend the conference so they can say: "I had my presentation displayed at Yokohama." Even World Health Organization staff admit to chuckling privately over some of the research studies.

It does not take much trawling through the compendium of more than 3,000 to guess which ones raised the laughter.

A University of California study discovered 63 percent of Hispanic men, but only 41 percent of women, were "comfortable having sex with the lights on."

Saifurudeen Vorakittaphokorn, of Thailand's Mahidol University, studied the sexual behavior of young Japanese women who sleep with beach boys at the Thai resort of Phuket. His conclusion was that "the liberating and exotic environment of a vacation community outside Japan and... the risk-taking behavior associated with young people of both sexes have created situations where cases of sexual permissiveness, exploitation and unprotected sexual intercourse are common." In other words: sun, sea and sex.

A STUDY of HIV infection in lorry and bus drivers in Douala and Ekoh, Cameroon found more than 60 percent of them claimed to have had sex on their last trips, mostly with prostitutes.

Such information has the merit of exposing the humbug that in the West, particularly Hollywood, has made AIDS infection almost a sacrament.

There was just as much humbug in Yokohama. One study suggested entry into the United States was a fundamental human right. Another considered whether short men were more likely to get AIDS than tall men.

Dr. Sudhansu Padga, head of community medicine at the Bahrain Defense Force hospital, said of the conference: "It's like a huge new project, such as building a dam. Always, 20% to 30% of the money goes down the drain.

The World Health Organization knows, however, that high-quality research and scientific advances are not coming quickly enough to justify the bloated costs of an annual gathering.

From now on, the conferences will be held every two years. That way, the quality may be higher. Maybe.

(The Sunday Telegraph)

Native healing and ethnobotany make good drugs

PEG MCENTEE
SALT LAKE CITY

PAUL Alan Cox, ethnobotanist, Fulbright scholar and Harvard Ph.D., thought he could spend three months with Samoan healing women and completely absorb their medical wisdom.

A decade later, he laughs at his presumption.

"It took me three months just to learn their medical lexicon," says Cox. "I was absolutely fluent in Samoan, but it was like hitting a brick wall. It was like talking to a Ph.D. in pharmacology."

Now 40, Cox has built a career seeking the knowledge of South Pacific healers who use plants to make drafts and poultices that could be as useful to modern medicine as to their Polynesian patients.

His quest has urgency. The rain forests, with their botanical treasures, are shrinking. Many elderly healers have no apprentices. And Cox is one of a few scientists working in the field of ethnobotany, a discipline that depends as much on understanding the practitioners of folk medicine as the plants they use.

"Every time one of the healers dies, it's like having a library burned," said Cox, a professor at Brigham Young University.

"It's a race against time, because there are so few of us doing this work," he said.

"Who died today? Maybe there's someone we never met, who could have helped someone with Parkinson's or Alzheimer's."

It is estimated that of 265,000 flowering

species of plants on earth, less than half of 1 percent have been studied exhaustively. Even so, their potential is manifest in the number of familiar drugs derived from plants - aspirin, codeine, ipecac and quinine among them.

Cox estimates he has a one-in-30 chance of finding a plant that could produce a pharmaceutical compound. But his work may have already borne fruit.

In 1984, Cox was told by Samoan healers about a rain-forest tree whose pulverized wood was steeped into a brew and used to treat yellow fever. He sent it to the National Cancer Institute, which isolated an anti-tumor compound called prostratin. The NCI now considers the prostratin a candidate for clinical trials as a possible therapy for AIDS.

Dr. Gordon Cragg, chief of the natural products branch at NCI, said Cox's discovery is the only lead on an anti-AIDS agent to come from an ethnobotanist, although others are studying plants for the same purpose.

Cragg emphasized that prostratin and the other compounds are being tested in the laboratory only, and any treatment for humans is a distant goal. And because the NCI focuses on AIDS and cancer, not such ordinary ailments as fever or diarrhea that an indigenous healer might treat, the applications at NCI are limited.

Still, Cragg said, the isolation of prostratin is a "very convincing demonstration of the power of ethnobotany."

For Cox, even a slim chance of finding a way to help AIDS patients is exhilarating. "I'm holding a lottery ticket, prostration, and it might work and it might not," he said. "But what a grand game to be in!"

Cox also learned of an anti-inflammatory compound deriving from the bark of another tree. Scientists at two Eastern pharmaceutical firms are developing the compound as a topical anti-inflammatory.

A Utah native whose father was a park ranger and mother a fisheries biologist, Cox comes by his passion naturally. As a Mormon missionary in Samoa, he learned the language and fell in love with the people and islands.

He returned to Utah for a bachelor's degree at BYU, won a Fulbright to the University of North Wales, then went to Harvard for a doctorate in rain-forest biology.

It was in Cambridge that he met ethnobotanist Richard Evans Schultes, who in the early 1980s helped swing the pendulum of research back from the synthetic drug development that had supplanted the search for natural sources.

Two years of research at Berkeley followed.

In 1984, he packed up his four young children and wife, Barbara, a mathematician, and went to live and work for a year on Savaii, in Western Samoa.

Life was primitive but sweet - every morning he and his wife dragged out a duffel bag full of textbooks and "hutschooled" their kids. Cox made himself the healers' apprentice.

He has worked elsewhere - Tonga, Fiji, Australia, Africa and Costa Rica, among other places - and speaks Samoan, Tongan, Spanish and Bislama, the language of the Solomon Islands.

But Samoa remains a special place. All healers are women who pass their knowledge to their daughters. There are four specialties: the fofu, or massage healer; fofogau, bonesetter; fa'atoga, midwife; and the tauleasa, herbalists who make medicine from plants.

And there are male chiefs, the stewards of the land, who must be asked in the resplendent rhetoric they favor before the healers can be consulted.

"I might be talking to a Samoan chief wearing a wraparound [garment] and with an enormous tattoo on his chest, and he sounds like an Oxford don speaking to me," Cox said.

There are quacks, of course. Cox tells of a Samoan man who claimed he was a healer - already a sure tip-off - and "diagnosed" his patients by stirring a box full of auto parts with a stick.

The true healer typically can identify 200 species of plants in her environment and each one's application and has a very specific vocabulary of biological forms, Cox said.

Thus, respect is paramount.

"I tell my students, 'If you can sit in a hut and respect the person, they can feel that, no matter what. Live your life with indigenous people as if at any moment they could read your heart - because they probably can.'"

Indeed, so well assimilated is Cox that he was made a chief himself, in the village of Falealupo. Through his Utah-based Seacology Foundation, he helped establish a 26,304-hectare rain-forest preserve where the plant that produces prostratin was found. In exchange, the foundation built schools and clinics.

Using a solar-powered laptop in the field, Cox takes care to type his notes in the native language, then lets his teachers proof his work. He also believes they are entitled to the same intellectual rights as any researcher, and that any significant royalties from a drug like prostratin should be returned.

"I don't consider them to be informants, but colleagues," Cox said. "Within this decade, we'll have drugs prescribed in this country that came straight from a 'witch doctor's' pouch."

(Associated Press)

New word bank has 200 million deposits, and all in English

PAUL HARRIS
LONDON

THE days when Britannia ruled the waves are long gone, but the English language which her empire left behind still has a position of global dominance.

A new "super-dictionary," called the Bank of English, opened to the public last month. It is a computer database that logs the different uses and definitions of every English word. Computer users can now gain access to the bank via Internet, a global computerized information network.

Millions of words from newspapers, books, letters, advertisements and even conversations taped by researchers wired for sound, are fed into the computer.

The computer records each use of any word, from the mundane "and" to the bizarre "dwem" - a politically correct term meaning a dead white European male. The day it opened, the bank celebrated storing a world record 200 million

words. Smaller collections exist for most major languages.

"This computer is the new home of the English language," Louise Grainger, a spokeswoman for the Bank of English, says.

Researchers track the different uses and frequencies of words and study English as it evolves. Individual words appear and disappear and their meanings change. For example, "gay" has all but lost its original "carefree" definition and is now used to mean "homosexual."

"The bank and the language itself are both growing all the time at an incredible rate. You could say they are like living organisms," Grainger says.

English has the largest vocabulary in the world with more than a million word forms, including technical terms. It is an official or recognized language in more than 60 countries, from Bhutan to Brunei and Tanzania to Tonga.

Other languages have also spread across the world. Chinese is the mother tongue of the greatest number of people - a billion compared to 350 million for English - and French, Spanish and Arabic also straddle large areas of the globe.

But there can be little doubt that English has become the global language of communication.

"It is the only lingua franca [common language] there is. It is globally dominant," says John Sinclair, a modern languages professor at Birmingham University, which helps run the Bank of English.

Sinclair believes the dominance of English has little to do with the language itself and a lot to do with politics. The legacy of the British Empire, that once spanned a quar-

ters could face jail sentences for breaching the regulations.

Tired French people will have to take an "arret du jeu" instead of a "time out." French builders will no longer drive "bulldozers" but "bouteurs" instead.

Other global languages seem less concerned. Spanish is spoken by millions of people in South and Central America and large immigrant populations in the US. But there are no plans to copy the defensive measures of the French.

"I don't think such a law would ever occur [in the Spanish-speaking world]," says Prof. Rafael Fente, head of the London office of the Instituto Cervantes, which promotes Spanish language and culture overseas.

Fente agrees with Sinclair that history is the crucial factor in deciding the global role of lan-

guages. "Spanish is like English, because it was an imperial language, and that world role makes it feel more secure," he says.

But there have been global languages before, for centuries, from Spain to India, Arabic was the dominant medium of communication.

Sinclair believes economic and political changes mean that a new global language could emerge from the Far East.

"Britain is not a world power, and if the American economy collapsed, other languages would fill the vacuum. Japanese is growing up, and behind Japan is the vast potential of China," said Sinclair.

Even the vast archives of the new super-dictionary cannot guarantee that English will be on top for ever.

(Reuters)

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Property, Building & Agriculture (continued)

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Bank Hapoalim	1,037.45	+0.15

Insurance (continued)

Bank Leumi	1,037.45	+0.15
Bank Hapoalim	1,037.45	+0.15

Trade & Services (continued)

Bank Leumi	1,037.45	+0.15
Bank Hapoalim	1,037.45	+0.15

Property, Building & Agriculture (continued)

Bank Leumi	1,037.45	+0.15
Bank Hapoalim	1,037.45	+0.15

Financial Institutions (continued)

Bank Leumi	1,037.45	+0.15
Bank Hapoalim	1,037.45	+0.15

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Bank Hapoalim	1,037.45	+0.15

Shares fall on high CPI as market enters forced holiday

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

Andre Lombroso

183.48	-2.00%
183.60	-2.22%
183.21	-2.38%

Two-Sided Index

183.48	-2.00%
183.60	-2.22%
183.21	-2.38%

Maot index

183.48	-2.00%
183.60	-2.22%
183.21	-2.38%

Karam index

183.48	-2.00%
183.60	-2.22%
183.21	-2.38%

THE last day of this trading week was marked by sharp declines yesterday. The Two-Sided Index declined two percent, the Maot 2.22% and the Karam 2.4%.

The trading day ended before the news about the imposition of a capital gains tax on the stock market was known to the general public.

Turnover was low at NIS 159 million.

The decrease was in response to the high rise in the Consumer Price Index for July. This rise is making it clear that the economy is in an inflationary situation.

The market was, to quote a trader, "worried about the possible economic measures that the government might take, as well as about the possible economic measures the government might not take."

Letting things be as disassembled as taking an active stance. Until now, the government has distinguished itself for doing nothing.

The main actors on the market floor were, as usual, the money managers and the speculators. They were mostly selling.

Declines outnumbered rises by a ratio of 3 to 1.

Among the declines were securities such as Elron, which dropped 5%; Bezeq, down 2.4%; Hanal 7.6% lower; Kitan, down 7%; Meir Ezra, 3.5% lower; Poseloni, 2.1% lower and Poalim Investments down 3.8%.

So why close the exchange?

FTSE Index closes 5 points higher on firmer US bonds

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - UK blue chip stocks ended higher helped by firmer US bonds, gilts and bonds, as markets generally anticipated a rise in US interest rates ahead of the outcome of the FOMC meeting later in the day.

The FTSE 100 closed 5.1 points up at 3,147.3. But second line stocks lagged behind.

FRANKFURT - The German DAX index ended the bourse session slightly higher in low volume, with activity becalmed ahead of the outcome of the US FOMC meeting.

The DAX index ended up 4.30 points at 2,143.14.

PARIS - French shares ended slightly higher after profit-taking eroded much of earlier gains booked on the back of a firmer Wall Street pending the outcome of the FOMC meeting.

Volume was very modest due to the August holiday month and Monday's public holiday, dealers said.

The CAC-40 index closed up 5.40 at 2,012.35.

ZURICH - Swiss shares recovered from earlier losses in line with bond futures, supported in late trading by a firmer opening on Wall Street, dealers said.

Dealers said optimism that the US FOMC would counter inflation with an expected raising of rates helped the market in late trading.

The all-share SPI rose 9.64 to 1,719.92.

TOKYO - Stocks ended moderately firmer on hopes that the market may rally after investors return soon from the summer holidays.

Speculation that US interest rates would rise, weakening the yen and helping boost Tokyo share prices, also supported sentiment.

The Nikkei average ended up 160.03 points to 20,786.36.

HONG KONG - Stocks closed sharply lower in thin trade, dragged down by sales of shares in market flags.

HSBC Holdings and unit Hang Seng Bank.

The blue-chip Hang Seng index slumped 119.51 points to 3,366.62.

SYDNEY - Nervousness about the likelihood of an overnight hike in US interest rates continued to take its toll on the Australian share market, forcing it to its lowest closing level in more than a month.

As the countdown to the FOMC meeting began in earnest, the All Ordinaries index closed 15.7 points weaker at 2,040.0.

JOHANNESBURG - Shares ended quietly lower on lack of interest ahead of the expected US move on interest rates, but De Beers was knocked after disappointing half-year results and could go lower, dealers said.

The overall index closed 27 points down at 5,762, the industrial index was 11 off at 6,569 and the gold index finished down 16 at 2,110.

Blue-chips close strong following Fed action

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks closed sharply higher yesterday as Wall Street hoped the Federal Reserve's double-barreled announcement to boost the discount rate and the federal funds rate would be the last credit tightening for some time.

The Dow Jones industrial index

was up 24.28 points to close at 3,794.37, based on early and unofficial data.

In the broader market, advancing issues beat out declines 4-3 on active volume of more than 306 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

Source: CommStock Trading Ltd.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

SOURCE: COMMSTOCK TRADING LTD.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

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Mansell focus of Formula 1 rumors

LONDON (AP) — Depending on whom you believe, British driver Nigel Mansell is either about to sign one of the richest contracts in sports history — or be put out to pasture.

Several British newspapers yesterday reported that Mansell, the former Formula One and Indy-car champion, has agreed to a three-year, \$30-million deal to drive for the Williams-Renault team starting in 1995.

Other papers, however, reported that team chairman Frank Williams has soured on the idea of having Mansell return, and that Mansell's current Indy-car team, Newman-Haas, is already planning on replacing him in its driver lineup for next year.

That would leave retirement as a likely scenario for the 41-year-old driver, the reports said.

The people most likely in the know, at least on this side of the Atlantic, weren't shedding any light on the latest rumors.

"It's complete and pure speculation," Williams spokeswoman Barbara Prydzdek said. "We don't know where the stories have popped up from."

Prydzdek denied that any contract had been signed for Mansell to return next year, although she reaffirmed previous comments made by Williams that "there is a possibility" Mansell will drive the final three Formula One races of the current season.

Once again, according to Prydzdek, nothing has been finalized.

But such talk wasn't about to stop the British tabloids from jumping on the Mansell bandwagon.

"Mansell returns," was the headline in the *Daily Mail*, which, like some other papers, worked its story around a quote from Newman-Haas team member Bert Thomas.

Other papers, including the tabloid *Today* and the more sober *Guardian*, painted a less-than-rosy picture for Mansell's return.

"I believe Frank is starting to go cold on the idea of having Nigel back permanently," according to a source "close to the Williams team" in *Today*.

Such rampant speculation surrounding Mansell has become a familiar fixture of the current Formula One season since the death of Williams driver Ayrton Senna at the San Marino Grand Prix on May 1.

After two months of rumors and amid much hype, Mansell eventually signed a one-year deal, worth a reported \$1m, to drive for Williams at the French Grand Prix on July 3, a race that did not conflict with his Indy-car schedule. Mansell performed well in qualifying, but failed to finish the race.

Mansell drove for the Williams team from 1985-88 and again from 1991-92, winning the world title in the final season before moving to Indy cars.

More than 100,000 watch NFL game in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) — The Houston Oilers beat their cross-state rival Dallas Cowboys 6-0 on Monday in a pre-season game played in Mexico City before the largest crowd in NFL history.

The two Texan teams slogged it out on a muddy field at giant Estadio Azteca filled with 112,376 fans, most of them cheering for the Super Bowl champion Cowboys.

The only scoring in the penalty-filled game was two field goals by Houston kicker Al Del Greco, Dallas running back Emmitt Smith did not play after Cowboys coach Barry Switzer decided the rain-soaked field was too treacherous to risk the All-Pro.

NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue said on ABC's Monday Night Football that the US-based league likely would consider expanding one day into the Mexican capital where what is known as "futbol americano" is becoming increasingly popular.

"It's (Mexico City) becoming a prospect on the horizon," he said.

"There are only words like 'extraordinary' that you can use to describe it," Tagliabue said of the crowd at Estadio Azteca, site of the 1968 Summer Olympics and the 1970 and 1986 World Cups.

The previous largest crowd ever to see an NFL game was 105,840 at a 1947 exhibition game between the Chicago Bears and College All-Stars at Soldier Field in Chicago.



SCRAMBLER — Dallas Cowboys QB Troy Aikman slogs out a few muddy yards, pursued by Oilers' Keith McCants. (AP)

Nat'l soccer squad takes on Croatia

DEREK FATTAL

ISRAEL'S national soccer squad is back action today against Croatia, at the National Stadium Ramat Gan.

It is coach Shlomo Scharf's last opportunity to test his men before the opening match in the qualifying group of the European Nations Championship next month at home against Poland.

Hapoel Haifa midfielder Renven Atar seems unlikely to open, after being hit by a bout of flu on Sunday. In his absence, Scharf will probably turn to Betar Jerusalem's Ronen Harazi as a partner for Eyal Berkowitz and Tal Benin in midfield, with Ronnie Rosenblatt leading the line. This combination performed admirably in the first period against Argentina last May.

Rafi Cohen and Bonnie Ginsburg are once again set to share a spell

between the posts, and the only question mark at the back appears to be whether Scharf will play Gadi Brumer as sweeper or Nir Klingner as a linkman between defense and midfield.

If the Croats field their strongest squad, the crowd can expect to be entertained by the likes of AC Milan's Zlatimir Boban, Alan Boksic of Lazio, and Davorin Prosenicki of Real Madrid. In addition, Mladen Mladenovic who caused Maccabi Haifa plenty of headaches when playing for Casino Salzburg, is set to return for his second visit to Israel within a week.

The match, which marks the first meeting between the two clubs, kicks off at 7 pm, and is preceded at 5 pm by a fixture between Israel's Olympic squad and the Croatian under-21 side.

Mac TA gets set for European campaign

JOEL GORDIN

MACCABI Tel Aviv has taken some "calculated risks" this season to regain its former premier status in European basketball, according to coach Muli Kazurin at the team's traditional pre-season press conference in Tel Aviv.

Slovenia's Radisav Curcic is the first foreign player from Europe to be hired. The other foreigner — Norris Coleman — comes from the US via Hapoel Jerusalem.

Kazurin also admitted that Lavon Mercer, one of the mainstays of the team for almost a decade, "will be sorely missed." To fill Mercer's big sneakers, dual citizen Jeff Kent was promoted from Maccabi's junior team, Maccabi Daron, where he has played for the past two seasons. The 2.06 meter, 24-year-old American, however, will not be eligible to take part in any of the club's European games, according to FIBA regulations.

Kazurin's hopes for Europe are pinned on improved defense and more power under the baskets. Club chairman Shimon Mizrahi declined to cite the reasons why Mickey Berkowitz broke off negotiations and went to Hapoel Tel Aviv. "I wish him well," was all Mizrahi would say.

Kazurin also refused to say whether Berkowitz's no-show and playmaker Oded Katash's decision not to return to the club after a year with Maccabi Rishon LeZion but to go to Hapoel Galil Elyon instead were blows to the team but, "I worry about what we have, not what we don't have," he said.

In addition to Curcic, Coleman and Kent, the other new faces on the team are national youth team star Viki Revach (18, 2.04m), Hapoel Daron's Assaf Dotan (19, 2.04m) and Maccabi Daron's Omer Barly (26, 1.90m). Those who have left from last year's squad, in addition to Mercer, are Dudi Adler (to Hapoel Givatayim) and Ayal Sayar (to study in the US).

Maccabi tonight plays an exhibition game against France's Antibes. On August 28-29, the team will take part in the four-cornered Tel Aviv Tourney with Hapoel Tel Aviv, Greece's Peristeri and Bulgaria's Levski Sofia.

The national league starts on September 1. One week later, a farewell for Lavon Mercer will be held with a game against last year's European Club Championships runner-up Olympiakos Piraeus.

Maccabi will enter the European Club Championships in the second round, on September 29 against the winner of Finland's Kotka Tyovaen and Switzerland's Bellinzona.

World's former strongest man dies of kidney failure

VIDALIA, Ga. (AP) — Paul Anderson, once recognized as the strongest man in the world, died Monday at a Vidalia hospital after a long struggle with kidney failure and arthritis. He was 61.

Anderson set nine world records and 18 American records in weightlifting in the 1950s.

He won a gold medal in the 1956 Olympics at Melbourne, and set three Olympic records. He is the last American heavyweight to win an Olympic gold medal.

He is still listed in the "Guinness Book of World Records" for having lifted the most weight with his back in 1957 — 6,270 lbs (2,840 kgs).

Anderson's other feats included lifting a table with a half-dozen people on top, the back end of a pickup truck with horses onboard and a carousell with children sitting on ponies.

His health problems started in 1983 and he received a kidney from his sister. Anderson almost died when his colon ruptured a year later and he was in a coma for 10 days.

Gooch to play in 3rd Test

LONDON (AP) — England batsman Graham Gooch has recovered from a hamstring injury and will be in the lineup tomorrow for the third and final Test against South Africa at the Oval.

The 41-year-old former captain suffered the injury during the second Test at Headingley last week. Team selectors had put another former captain, Mike Gatting, on standby in case Gooch did not recover in time.

Gooch, England's all-time leading run-scorer, will enter the match mired in a rare slump. He began the summer with a double century against New Zealand at Trent Bridge, but has scored just 111 runs in seven Test innings since.

South Africa's returns fails to pull in crowds

Namibia makes Commonwealth Games debut, Hong Kong in last fling

VICTORIA, BC (Reuters) — South Africa's historic return to the Commonwealth Games has failed to generate sell-out crowds in this genteel Canadian city.

A large team from the republic has boosted the entry to a record 64 nations, but with around half the 360,000 tickets still unsold, some competitors face the prospect of performing before sparse crowds.

Although organizers had to scale down plans for extravagant opening and closing ceremonies in Victoria's harbor, they hope the \$160 million Canadian (\$US 119m) event will help revive a sense of purpose among former members of the British Empire.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth, who will officially open the Games tomorrow, hailed South Africa's return after 36 years as a milestone. "This is a special year for our Commonwealth," she said during a pre-Games stopover in eastern Canada.

Games spokeswoman Amy Hart said: "The Commonwealth Games is a celebration of our common traditions. The focus is not to just see who can win the most medals. It's about coming together."

Namibia, which gained its independence in 1990, makes its Games debut while Hong Kong, due to revert from British to Chinese control in 1997, marks its last.

The survival of the Games themselves is also an achievement for the Commonwealth. They were said to be on the verge of extinction after African countries boycotted them in Edinburgh in 1986 in protest at British tolerance of South Africa's apartheid regime.

Some 3,500 athletes are scheduled to compete during the 11-day event. Athletes will compete in 10 official sports. Crack Australian swimmers like Kieran Perkins and Rebecca Brown, England's Olympic and world champion sprinter Linford Christie and Kenya's accomplished distance runners will be the biggest draws.

But the specter of drugs loomed



IN THE SPLITS — Adrian Steyn of South Africa attempts the splits as he practices on the rings in preparation for the Commonwealth Games. (Reuters)

after Nigerian athlete Udemé Ekepyong was sent home when stimulants were found in his suitcase on arrival at Victoria airport. The incident fanned fears of a repeat of the problems at the 1990 Auckland Games when three weightlifters were stripped of medals after testing positive.

Zurich Grand Prix Olympic and world champion Linford Christie takes on the Americans in the hottest sprint race of the year at the world's richest athletics meeting today.

A budget of around \$4 million has ensured a field of incomparable quality. Despite at least six world record attempts, the focal point of the evening will be the men's 100m, given an extra edge by the intense rivalry between Britain's Christie and the leading Americans.

Three heats will be run with the top two and two fastest losers qualifying for the final, a format Christie believes will be to his advantage.

"Pound for pound, I'm a lot stronger than they are," Christie said.

"I get stronger as the rounds go on, that's why I'm a championship runner."

Eight times Olympic champion Carl Lewis has pulled out of the meeting because of a stomach ailment picked up during the Goodwill Games in St Petersburg.

But Lewis, without a major sprint title for three years, always presented less of a threat to Christie than his Santa Monica Track Club mate Leroy Burrell, the world record holder, or Goodwill Games champion Dennis Mitchell.

Mitchell may be Christie's top challenger and the fact that he has never finished higher than third in a major championship provides a prime motivation.

Then there is the irrepressible Jon Drummond, who has beaten Christie three times in the past two seasons. "If the weather is right I'm going to break the world record," Drummond predicted, flexing his biceps. "I'm going to run 9.79 and you can quote me on that."

The weather, hot and still yesterday, promises to be ideal and a new, fast track has been installed at the Letzgrund Stadium.

And while Ben Johnson's mark of 9.79, wiped from the record books after the Canadian confessed it was drug assisted, may not be approached, Burrell's current mark of 9.85 is clearly in danger.

Christie's close friend Colin Jackson will attempt to improve his own world high hurdles record of 12.91 and there will be other world record assaults from Maria Mutola in the women's 800, Sonia O'Sullivan in the women's mile, Noureddine Morceli in the men's 5,000, Moses Kiptanui in the 3,000 steeplechase and Jackie Joyner-Kersey in the women's long jump.

And finally there is the outrageously talented Algerian Morceli, holder of the world 1,500, mile and 3,000 marks who takes a step into the unknown with an attack on Haile Gebrselassie's 5,000 record.

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Vatican's nuncio says all Christians should have a role in Jerusalem's holy places

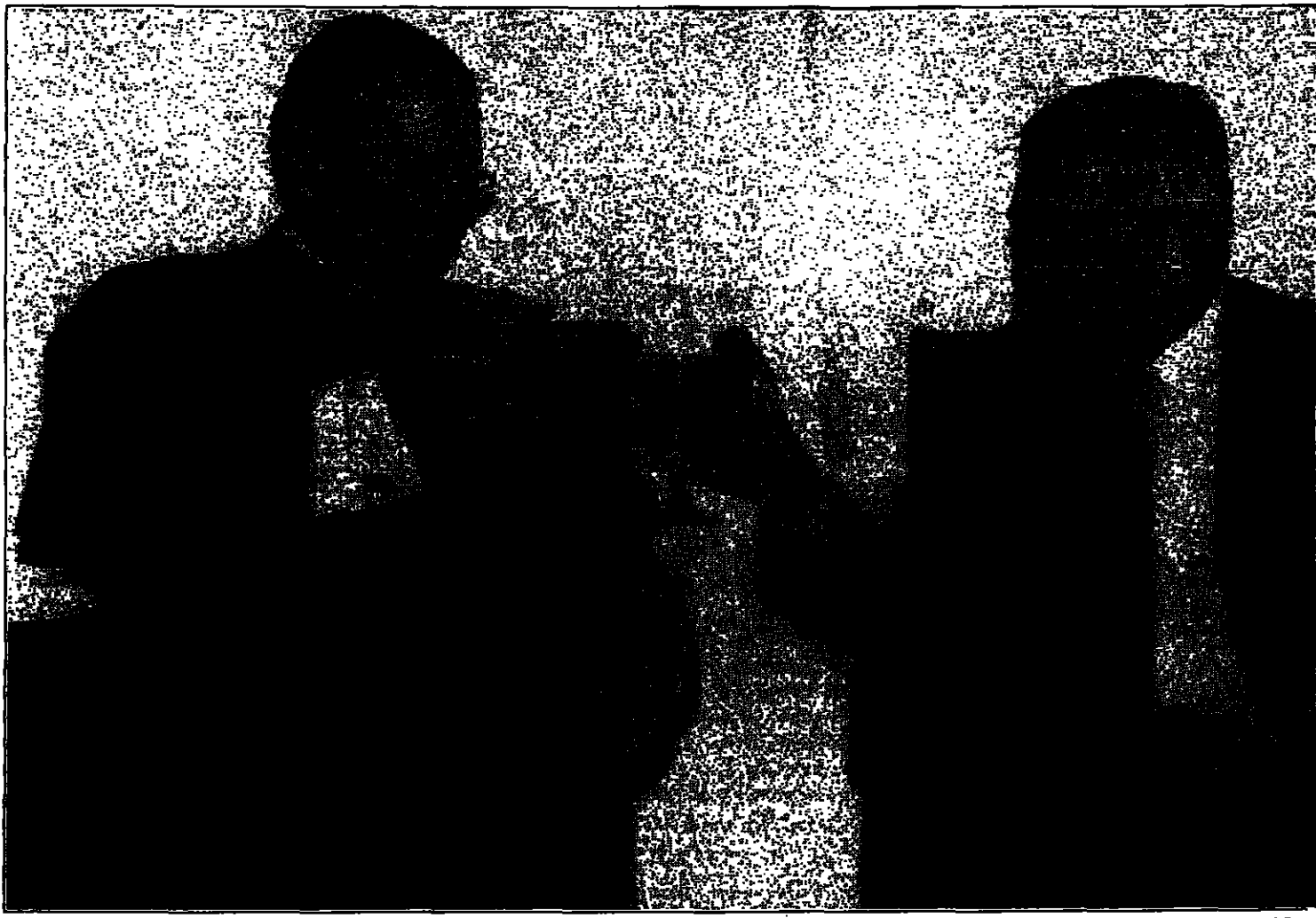
HAIM SHAPIRO

THE Holy See never claimed to be the representative of all the Christians with regard to the Christian holy places, Monsignor Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, the new papal nuncio to Israel, said yesterday, after presenting his credentials to President Ezer Weizman at Beit Hanassi.

"I told [Weizman] that I was happy and honored to have this privilege to be the first nuncio of the Holy See to Israel," he said. The new nuncio said the working committees negotiating the details of the agreement between Israel and the Vatican are to resume their talks in September or October. But he said he expected that the talks, concerning the legal status of the church and the financial aspects, would probably take a few years to complete.

Regarding the holy places, Montezemolo said the Catholic Church claims that it should have a voice in the matter, but cannot claim that it is the only Christian voice which should be heard. The discussions on the holy places should be carried out within a pluralistic framework, he said.

He also noted that although he has now become the nuncio of the Holy See to Israel, he continues to serve in his former capacity as apostolic delegate to Jerusalem and Palestine. Thus, although he intends to establish a residence and chancery in Jaffa as nuncio, he will continue to maintain his residence in Jerusalem as apostolic delegate.



Monsignor Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, the first Vatican ambassador to Israel, proposes a toast to President Ezer Weizman after presenting his credentials at a Beit Hanassi ceremony yesterday. (Reuters)

Iran recalls envoy from Argentina after bombing allegations

NICOSIA (AP) — Amid a mounting diplomatic row, Iran said yesterday it will launch legal proceedings against Argentine officials for implicating four Iranian diplomats in the Buenos Aires bombing that killed 95 people and wounded 200.

State-run Teheran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, said in a commentary that Iranian officials were "determined to appeal to international judicial organizations to follow up the accusations brought against the Iranian citizens."

The move came the day after Iran recalled its ambassador in Buenos Aires, Hadi Soleimani Pour, for consultations.

On Monday, the radio quoted an "informed source" at the Foreign Ministry in Teheran as saying the ambassador was called home

following "the spread of certain baseless allegations and propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran and our country's officials and diplomats, by some of Argentine media and organizations."

Argentine Vice Foreign Minister Fernando Petreia said his government has not been officially notified of Teheran's plans to withdraw its ambassador in Argentina. "We haven't received any communication," he said.

Teheran radio indicated that the envoy's return was linked to the plan to institute legal proceedings against Argentina.

The radio said Teheran intended to bring Argentine Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano to task for ordering four Iranians held for questioning in the bombing.

Argentinian Jewish leaders worried about discrimination

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Jewish leaders said Monday they are worried about discrimination as a result of fears of another terrorist attack in Argentina.

Several sporting events between Jewish and non-Jewish clubs were suspended during the weekend because the non-Jewish clubs said they were afraid of terrorism.

Hospitals and operating rooms were put on alert and security was tightened at border crossings, airports, government buildings and other possible targets after the government said Friday it had received information that another terrorist attack was possible.

"We will not accept pressure or discrimination," said Natan Fridman, secretary of sports for Hebraica, one of the largest Jewish social clubs in Buenos Aires.

The bombing of the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires killed 95 people and wounded more than 200 on July 18. An Argentine judge has requested the capture of four Iranians for questioning and named three Iranian Embassy employees as suspects. No one has been charged.

A bomb killed 29 people at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires in March 1992. The United States and Israel blamed Iranian-backed terrorists, but the Argentine government never completed its investigation.

"I think we're in a time of crisis and that with time, in the short term, we will leave the panic aside," Elias Lisciki, an official from the Delegation of Jewish Argentine Associations, told a Buenos Aires radio station.

President Carlos Menem acknowledged that the government's announcement might have alarmed people.

The government said it received information from Israel and other sources it would not identify that there could be another terrorist attack on Argentina or a neighboring country, but gave no further details.

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Suspect, 63, remanded for post office holdups

THE Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court lifted a publishing ban yesterday on the name of a 63-year-old man suspected of robbing several post office clerks in Gush Dan at gunpoint.

Moshe Eruati was arrested on Sunday after an Azur post office clerk recognized him and gave him his description to police. Three weeks earlier she had foiled an attempted robbery when she locked the main door to the post office just as Eruati, armed with a gun, was

about to enter. Although he denied any involvement in the incident, police found a stocking and a pistol in his car, allegedly used in the robberies. Police believe Eruati is responsible for at least three other armed robberies over the past few months.

However, police said Eruati was not exactly successful in his heists — one Rishon LeZion post

office only yielded NIS 200, while a clerk in another branch handed him a plastic bag full of worthless notes. He was luckier in Holon where he snatched NIS 7,000 cash. He was identified by all clerks in a line-up.

A Magistrate's Court judge remanded him for 48 hours yesterday, but furious detectives have lodged an appeal with the District Court to keep him in custody until their inquiries are over.

Histadrut wants new COL increase deal with employers

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut is to open negotiations with employers regarding a new cost-of-living raise agreement, that would provide workers with adequate compensation for inflation. Trade Union Department chairman Amir Peretz said yesterday.

Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon said that the labor federation will work out a new compensation system for the workers, to prevent inflation from eroding workers' wages. Ramon said that the workers should be fully compensated for inflation above 10 percent, noting that the present COL agreement was based on the government's promise of 8%

annual inflation. Histadrut and union representatives, headed by Peretz, yesterday signed the COL adjustment with the employers' representatives under which workers, in their August salaries, will receive a raise of 3.7%, up to a maximum gross wage of NIS 4,500.

The existing agreement is due to expire on December 31, and both sides agreed to renegotiate the agreement to provide better compensation for inflation.

"There is no reason for the wage earners to pay the price for the government's failure in other fields, such as the soaring housing prices," Peretz said.

Program to teach children about animal welfare

LIAT COLLINS

IN a move to combat the phenomenon of young children mistreating animals, a new program in which local schoolchildren can learn about animal welfare will be instituted in certain Tel Aviv-area schools next month.

The project has been in the pipeline for several years, but this is the first time it is being implemented, said Zava Eliezer, the education representative of the US-based organization Concern for Helping Animals in Israel (CHAI).

The program consists of a workbook for children and accompanying guide book for teachers, and is aimed at second- to fourth-graders.

Tsur orders probe into water disruptions in Nazareth region

DAVID RUDGE

AGRICULTURE Minister Ya'akov Tsur yesterday appointed a special team to investigate disruptions in supplies of drinking water to thousands of Nazareth area residents.

The team, composed of a senior ministry official Ilan Eshel and two representatives of the Water Commissioners' office, has been instructed to deliver a report on the situation by this morning.

Sources in the ministry said the team had visited Nazareth and Upper Nazareth yesterday, as well as Mekorot's pumping station in the Beit Netofa Valley.

The disruptions began last Wednesday following a breakdown in equipment at the pumping station which is the main source of drinking water supplies for the Nazareth region.

Mekorot has repair teams at the site who have reportedly been working round-the-clock to replace the damaged equipment. Even so, the work is expected to take at least another two weeks to complete.

Alternative sources were tapped and Mekorot said supplies to the two cities and their more than 100,000 inhabitants had been fully restored on Saturday.

Nevertheless, disruptions have continued. Officials at the Nazareth Municipality said more than 20,000 residents were affected by the cutbacks and some areas were without water at all for several hours at a time.

Deputy Mayor Souheil Diab charged that the authorities had

ignored the problem and they had not received any assistance from any governmental agencies, despite repeated appeals. He charged that it was another symptom of discrimination against the Arab community.

Upper Nazareth Acting Mayor Ronen Plot also accused the authorities of doing nothing to help because the city was not "Tel Aviv or Jerusalem therefore did not appear on the map."

He said the municipality had mobilized water tankers with the help of the IDF and the local fire brigade and these were being used to distribute water to residents in worst-hit areas.

Mekorot, however, insisted that all the feeder pools for the two cities had been filled from alternative sources and that the problem of distribution from that point rested with the local authorities. Water company officials said Mekorot would provide assistance in helping distribute the water in the cities, if asked to do so, even though it was not strictly Mekorot's job.

The special team appointed by Tsur is expected to investigate all aspects of the breakdown and the subsequent disruptions in the supplies of drinking water to Nazareth, Upper Nazareth and neighboring villages.

In the meantime, Mekorot has cut water supplies to farmers in the region, in order to give priority to residents, until the repairs at the Beit Netofa Valley pumping station have been completed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two-year-old nearly drowns in home pool

A two-year-old boy from Moshav Harutzim who fell into a pool in his backyard and nearly drowned was in very critical condition last night at Kfar Sava's Meir Hospital.

The boy had apparently been lying in the water for a long period of time before being discovered by a family member. MDA paramedics found the boy with no pulse and no heartbeat, and immediately tried to resuscitate him. *lit*

Gasoline prices rise

Gasoline prices rose last night at midnight. A liter of 96 octane gasoline went up 2.36% to NIS 2.17 from NIS 2.12, while non-leaded 95 octane gas was up 2.4% to NIS 2.13. The price of light fuel for industry dropped 1.2%, the price of heavy fuel for industry dropped 1.8%, and naphta prices fell 0.6%.

Schools to get air-conditioners

The Education Ministry announced yesterday that it would begin installing air-conditioning in schools throughout the country. The plan, to be completed within five years, will also make it possible to adjust the equipment to heat classrooms. It is expected to cost about NIS 1 billion, Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein said yesterday.

The ministry ordered a survey from the Meteorological Service to determine which areas should receive priority. Rubinstein added. Local councils will order the equipment through the ministry to cut costs.

Teen to be charged in Brooklyn slaying

Lemrick Nelson Jr., the black teenager tried and acquitted two years ago for the murder of Australian yeshiva student Yankel Rosenbaum in Crown Heights, is expected to surrender in federal court in Brooklyn today to face federal charges of violating Rosenbaum's civil rights.

Nelson, 19, was picked up last Thursday in Atlanta, Georgia after the US Attorney's Brooklyn office handed up the indictment against him. He was freed on \$25,000 bail after a closed hearing, and then drove home to New Jersey with his mother to face the new charges.

After being acquitted of Rosenbaum's murder in October 1992, the indictment on civil rights grounds is the only way Nelson can be tried again for the yeshiva student's death.

Thais free 2 in Israeli Embassy bombing

Two Iranian men arrested in connection with an apparent bombing attempt against the Israeli Embassy in Bangkok were released from detention yesterday, while a third will face formal criminal charges.

The man remaining in custody, identified as 29-year-old Hossein Shahriari Far, stands accused of murder, robbery, possession of explosives, and being a member of an illegal underground organization, the public prosecutor's office said at a court hearing.

The three men were arrested in connection with an incident in which a rented truck carrying a bomb fashioned from plastic explosives, ammonium nitrate fertilizer and fuel oil was abandoned at a busy Bangkok intersection in early March. *AP*

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's Mifal Hapais daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, nine of hearts, nine of diamonds and seven of clubs.

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 4, 9, 29, 32, 34, and 47, and the additional number was 6.

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